FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 053 *16 March 1984*

ARGENTINA

U.S. Official Confident of Government's Ability B 1
Talks With U.S., Foreign Policy Analyzed [LA PRENSA 14 Mar] B 2
Alfonsin Speaks on Democracy in Cordoba B 4
Caputo Terms Leak of Note to UK 'Irresponsible' B 6
Borras on Military Reorganization, Budget B 7
Senate Votes Down Trade Union Bill 24 to 22 B 7
Alfonsin Regrets Rejection B 8
Former President, Economy Minister Face Trial B 8

BOLIVIA

Former President To Meet ADN Members in La Paz C 1
Municipal Workers Begin Indefinite Strike C 1
FSB Confirms Arrest of Leader, Members C 1

BRAZIL

Figueiredo Reaffirms No Direct Election Stand D 1
Defends Position in Interview D 1
CMN Imposes Tax on Steel Exports to U.S. D 2
Guerreiro Meets Venezuelan Counterpart on Trade D 2
Briefs: ALADI, Overall Trade in 1983 D 2

CHILE

U.S. Official: Transition to Democracy Wanted E 1
Iraqi Plane Departs With Load of Cluster Bombs E 1
Delegation Goes to Rome to Review Beagle Talks E 1
Bishop: No Political Activities in Church Units E 2
Union Leader: El Teniente Mine To Ignore Strike E 2
Four Priests in Ancud Receive Death Threats E 2
Industries Display Weapons at Air Fair [EL MERCURIO 11 Mar] E 3

COLOMBIA

Death Toll Climbs in Florencia Takeover F 1
Department Returns to Normal F 1
M-19 Expels Leader of Florencia Attack F 1

ECUADOR

Defense Minister Cited on Oilfield Attack G 1
Briefs: International Monetary Reserves; Loan Negotiated With Japan; Oil Exports G 1

URUGUAY

Colorado Party Scores U.S. Textile Restrictions [EL DIA 3 Mar] K 1
Colorado, Blanco Parties Seeking Rapprochement K 1
Minister on Ferreira Aldunate, Elections K 2
National Party Leaders on Ferreira's Return [EL DIA 8 Mar] K 2

PANAMA

General Noriega Accuses U.S. of Blackmail N 1
DENI Chief Denies Rumors of Businessman's Death N 1
Search Extends to Colombia N 2
Briefs: National Democratic Union Directors; New Biweekly Publication N 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Deputy Minister Chacon Accused of Aiding ARDE [LIBERTAD 9-15 Mar] P 1
Popular Vanguard Party's Dissension Continues P 2

EL SALVADOR

Magana on 2-Year Tenure, Talks With Rebels [EL DIARIO DE HOY 14 Mar] P 2
D'Aubuisson Answers Charges, Predicts Victory P 3
General Medrano Comments on Duarte Charges [EL DIARIO DE HOY 14 Mar] P 5
COFREFA on Cuba, Kidnappings, Recent Clashes P 5
Unidentified Gunmen Kill Retired Colonel P 6
FMLN Faction Stops Traffic in San Miguel P 6

HONDURAS

Mass Repatriation of Salvadorans Reported [LA TRIBUNA 14 Mar] P 7

NICARAGUA

Daniel Ortega Discusses Elections, Contras [Mexico City EL DIA 12 Mar] P 7
Labor Minister Godoy Reportedly Resigns P 11
Bayardo Arce Greets Cuban Teachers Contingent P 11
Parties Charged With Plotting Against Elections P 12
Opposition Leader Meneses Criticizes Elections [Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 8 Mar] P 12
Liberal's Godoy 'Optimistic' About Elections [Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 9 Mar] P 14
FDN's Calero on Elections, Relations With ARDE [Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 4 Mar] P 16
Rebels Report Recent Military Activity P 20
ARDE Claims 38 Killed [Voice of Sandino] P 20
FDN Attacks EPS Battalion [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA 15 Mar] P 21

CUBA

Cabrisas Talks With Argentine Commerce Secretary Q 1
Herrera Signs TV Agreement With Czechoslovakia Q 1
ICAP Commemorates Grenadian Coup Anniversary Q 1
Economic Growth Noted at CEMA Institute Meeting Q 1
Teachers Group Arrives for Service in Nicaragua Q 2
Austrian Chancellor Lauds Development of Relations Q 2
Reportage on U.S. Presence, Policy in C.A. Q 2
Senate Committee Approves Aid Q 2
U.S. Prepares for Interviews Q 3
Media Cited on U.S. Presence Q 3
U.S. Actions Rejected Q 4
Salvadoran Leader Cited on Elections, Reforms Q 4
Salvadoran Elections Dampened by Vote Problems Q 5
Surprise Operation Announced in El Salvador Q 5
More on Offensive Q 5
Salvadoran General Cited on Death Squads Q 6
UN Rights Commission Condemns Guatemalan Regime Q 6
Nicaraguan UN Ambassador Cited on Attacks Q 6
Nicaraguan Cities Prepare for Possible Invasion Q 7
State of Siege Decreed in Colombian Provinces Q 7
60 Peruvian Police Arrested in Murder Case Q 7
Burnham Says Guyana Will Not Bow to IMF Pressure Q 7

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Visas Denied to Cuban PCD Congress Delegation R 1
Imbert Urges Closer Trade Ties With Jamaica R 1
[LISTIN DIARIO 9 Mar]
Police Set To Prevent Further Student Violence R 1

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

State Telecommunications To Begin 1 April S 1
Bartering Considered To Ease Payment Problem S 2
EPC Director Williams on 1983 Exports, Imports S 3
Caricom Trade Rule Infractions S 3
Briefs: World Bank Loan Granted S 4

DOMINICA

Charles: 'No Regrets' Over Grenada Decision S 5

GRENADA

OAS Allows Interim Government To Spend $100,000 S 5
Louison Comments on Bishop, Cuba, USSR S 5

JAMAICA

Israel Enters Joint Agricultural Venture S 6
Seaga Blames Deficit on Revenue Shortfall S 7

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ince Comments on 2-Day Visit to Venezuela S 8

U.S. OFFICIAL CONFIDENT OF GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY

PY152130 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1415 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Mar (EFE) -- Lowell Kilday, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, said today that he knows nothing about the reports issued by U.S. consulting firms that cast doubts on the stability of the Argentine constitutional government.

He stressed that the White House has "full confidence in the ability of the Argentine democracy to solve its own problems."

Kilday, who arrived here last night, also said that the U.S. Government "wants a peaceful solution for the Malvinas conflict." He said, though, that "we are not putting pressure on any side."

The visitor, the highest-ranking U.S. official to travel to Argentina since Vice President George Bush came to attend the presidential inauguration, will meet with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and with other high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Kilday came to Argentina on a visit that he himself termed "an orientation trip" with the objective of "taking a closer look at the Argentine situation."

Asked about the future of the relations between the two countries, Kilday replied that "our common interest is that the two countries represent democracy which, as the political force that unites us, is the object of our common interest both at the hemispheric and at the world level."

He then denied that he will discuss the nuclear plans of the government with Argentine officials, saying that "I will not negotiate anything and I am not bringing any message from my government either."

Asked about the possible consequences of the Argentine foreign debt, Kilday said: "We believe that the Argentine Government is capable of negotiating with creditor banks by itself."

Kilday arrived at the end of two days of talks between U.S. State Department officials and officials of the Argentine Foreign Ministry. The talks have been regarded as an effort that the two governments have undertaken to normalize bilateral relations, which deteriorated after the Malvinas conflict.

Several issues were discussed during the round of talks held on Monday and Tuesday. Among other topics, the conversations dealt with the Argentine foreign debt, the Central American situation, disarmament, and nuclear nonproliferation.

The Argentine delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and the U.S. delegation by Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, who is the chairman of the Policy Planning Council of the U.S. State Department.

TALKS WITH U.S., FOREIGN POLICY ANALYZED

PY152015 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 pp 1, 7

[J. Iglesias Rouco commentary: "Connections and Disconnections"]

[Excerpts] The Argentine Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Department of State delegation which is currently visiting Argentina are avoiding an in-depth analysis of the real status quo of Argentine-U.S. relations, which are hardly promising. Mr Caputo apparently went so far as to say (the day before yesterday) that these relations "are appropriate for a nation which, as is the case of Argentina, upholds a clear-cut international position," something which is quite laughable because if there is anything at all lacking in Argentina's position, it is certainly clarity. In sum: no one, and the North Americans least of all, expects much from these talks which, in the best of cases, can only be termed exploratory.

The attitude of Argentine diplomats -- Mrs Elsa Kelly, secretary for foreign affairs, and Mr Mauhourat, under secretary for foreign policy, together with Mr Romero, who is in charge of international economic relations, are the ones that call the tune at the abovementioned talks -- is mainly to blame for an atmosphere deprived of interest which envelopes the dialogue despite the fact that the matters discussed are important. From what we have learned, the two delegations have already discussed the issues in which Argentina is most interested: the foreign debt and the Central American conflict, both of which have a considerable effect on Argentine relations with Washington. Naturally the U.S. delegates have expressed the desire of their government to support Argentina, but they have also indicated that their ability to apply pressure on the creditors' banks is very limited. This statement is probably only partially true, although it does explain why the Washington officials moved on immediately to the Central American problem, an action which -- bearing in mind the support which Argentina has given Nicaragua -- must have sounded to Mrs Kelly's ears as part of the answer to the Argentine concern over the foreign debt. In other words, the U.S. diplomats and the very tone of the talks have indicated -- and will continue to do so -- that it is utterly impossible to deal with these problems separately as the Argentine Government wants.

However, we repeat that the most discouraging aspect of these talks is the attitude of our spokesmen, obviously the result of the instructions that they must have received. For example, in response to the suggestion of the North Americans that Washington is prepared to harden its position toward the Sandinist regime and the Soviet-Cuban expansion in the region, the Argentine spokesmen merely discoursed on the principle of nonintervention, on Latin America's "coming of age," and on the inappropriateness of "gendarme states" -- openly alluding to the United States -- while constantly eulogizing democracy as the best system for Latin America. At a meeting of this nature, this kind of answer must have been interpreted as a hint at the projected "democratic international" which, on behalf of the French social democracy and the continental left, Alfonsin's supporters have been cherishing for a long time, probably with the secret support of Havana and Moscow as long as this project helps create a new "anti-Yankee front in Latin America.

From what we know, Washington views this Alfonsin project with considerable misgivings because it is the only one of those devised by the party and the government that seems to be clearly defined. So much so that, according to our sources, the Radical "left" appears to have already reached an understanding with Mr Ferreira Aldunate, leader of the Uruguayan Blanco Party, by which Argentina will support the creation in Uruguay of a "movement" similar to that led by Mr Alfonsin [a reference to the Renewal and Change Movement, a faction of Radical Civic Union, UCR] and Ferreira Aldunate's electoral campaign. The most curious aspect of this agreement, which was reportedly encouraged by Antoine Blanca, Mitterrand's next ambassador to Buenos Aires, and by Mr Debray, is that Ferreira Aldunate -- who was in exile in France until a short time ago -- apparently also obtained the go-ahead from two other interested parties: General Gregorio Alvarez, who seemingly wants to preside over a transition period (after which Ferreira Aldunate would run as presidential candidate for the new "movement" obtaining beforehead the majority in the two legislative chambers), and the Soviet Union. Juan Ferreira, the son of Ferreira Aldunate, made a trip to Moscow where he may have worked out the details of this scheme intended to reduce the possibilities of the Colorado Party in the near-future Uruguayan "democratization."

Many diplomatic and political circles in the River Plate area estimate that the Alfonsinist support for Ferreira Aldunate has strengthened the aspirations of General Alvarez to head a transition government. The idea is not all that bad, but there is another highly significant Argentine element which is favoring the aspirations of Alvarez as well as those of Pinochet: the economic chaos and the institutional conflicts which, although inherited by the Alfonsin government, have now been exacerbated by formulas of government that, as those of Grinspun, have proven to be wholly ineffective in the past. Obviously, the Argentine tribulations, plus the fear in the Armed Forces of those countries of wholesale reprisals or impositions on military institutions of demands exceeding the needs for the indispensable restoration of the judicial order, are consolidating there the idea of a more "orderly transition." In these circumstances, there are always politicians like Ferreira Aldunate who are willing to enter a "pact."

The United States and still less Brazil which, after signing recently a military-industrial agreement with Washington, is again raising its head as the great "gendarme" in South America, thus vindicating Kissinger's thinking, cannot favorably view the Buenos Aires maneuverings, especially when they are translated into financial and political credits to a Soviet Union satellite like Nicaragua, and the lightning fast dismissal of a high-ranking diplomatic official like Gobbi, who was the only pro-Western counterweight in the Buenos Aires government. But this is nothing compared with the sucpicions raised in Washington and Brasilia by some presumed connections and by some semiofficial appointments made in the foreign area, as reported by some UCR circles.

But this domestic political "climate" raises even more the concern of North Americans and Brazilians in the face of more visible political and strategic facts, such as the concentration of hundreds of guerrillas in Bolivia, including Montoneros, ERP members, Chileans, Colombians, and Peruvians. In a few words: Washington and Brasilia seem to envision a new subversive offensive in the Southern Cone, supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba, and do not believe that Buenos Aires can be the best line of defense against that offensive, not only because of the acute socioeconomic crisis, but also because of the ideological "inclinations" being attributed to part of the government party, which is now on the rise, and to Peronism, which is in a process of decline.

And yet, as we say, Buenos Aires continues without making a clear definition on its external front. It is even likely that the departure of Gobbi, who is an able negotiator, might set back for a couple of weeks the Beagle negotiations in Rome (after Alfonsin came to power, the Chileans went so far as to demand 40 miles of territorial waters but desisted, on advice from the Vatican, after a demonstration of firmness by Gobbi who threatened to return to Buenos Aires). The North Americans are also interested in the Beagle negotiations. The Argentine reply to the British proposal on the Malvinas leaves the door open to negotiations which might be fruitful, but it also reflects the clashes within the Buenos Aires government. It is even said that the first part of the reply was written by Caputo, and the second party by Gobbi, after making mutual concessions. Now that the Gobbi "counterweight" has been discarded, nobody knows what will be the Alfonsinist "left's" posture vis-a-vis the next British counterproposal, particularly since this "left" sector is generally inclined to keep Argentina distant from any rapprochement with Great Britain, the United States, and NATO.

The Argentine development in the nuclear field, and the UCR resistance to submit it to any system of international control, which is a question that Washington considers a "priority" in its dialogue with Buenos Aires, the French "connection," and the Argentine commercial dependency on the Soviet Union at a time of financial chaos, complete the picture that neither North Americans nor level-headed Argentines can consider reassuring. Those empty speeches on "democracy" which are heard from the San Martin Palace these days are therefore unwarranted, especially now when we have just been born to democracy, or, as Ortega [Jose Ortega y Gasset] used to say, when wish and will have yet to become reality.

ALFONSIN SPEAKS ON DEMOCRACY IN CORDOBA

PY151726 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1541 GMT 15 Mar 84

["Message to the people of Cordoba and the Nation" by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, from Plaza Espana in Cordoba -- live]

[Excerpts] [Applause, shouts and chants of "Alfonsin, Alfonsin"] Dear friends of Cordoba... [chants, party slogans] a long time ago...many months ago...[honking of horns, shouts, chants]...a long time ago I said that once democracy was restored in this country, this democracy would have to find time to pay homage to the news media in rural Argentina which did not remain silent in difficult times. Many news media in rural Argentina fulfilled this extraordinary mission. [shouts and chants continue in the background] But I am certain that none of these media will feel neglected if we pay homage of democracy to LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR of Cordoba on behalf of all rural media.

I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate the governor of Cordoba Province, who has decisively tried to help those that need it most through school lunches while seeking solutions to not only provincial economic problems but also to those of the entire nation by expanding farmland.

But above and beyond everything else, this is an opportunity for me to reaffirm a commitment to you people of Cordoba, to say once again, in the light of the difficult circumstances we are experiencing, that we will not implement measures detrimental to our people, that we will not accept recessionary formulas. This is an opportunity to renew this basic commitment in the same way body and shadow move together. No one will make us stray from this course.

It is true that times are difficult, you can feel it, you suffer from them. These are difficult times for Argentina. These are times in which voices can be heard demanding ...[shouts: "Argentina, Argentina" and "Alfonsin, Alfonsin"] Please let us try to be quiet so that my words can be heard. [shouts and chants]

To those calling for absurd solutions we merely say that there is no need to seek division, sectarianism, and violence. On the contrary, one must engage one's heart and soul in the task of bringing together a mature and united people. Solidarity makes people strong and only if our people are strong will we be able to build our destiny without servitude or tutelage of any kind. [shouts, honking, and slogans]

We do not care about the absurd consultant firms that attack and insult us from abroad. We do not care about those who try to trip us up; they are not going to make us slow our pace nor are they going to defeat us. [shouts and applause] They should realize once and for all that they are not struggling against one sole man; that would be easy. They should realize that their objectives are impossible since they are struggling against a people with faith and hope, determined to definitely mark their country's progress. [applause and chanting of "Alfonsin"]

We need a free and organized society. This is what we are lacking, this is the path to attain the harmony that should preside over our peoples' actions. But let us not allow freedom to hinder organization and allow organization to kill freedom. The only link that will establish harmony between freedom and organization is respect for moral standards through justice and solidarity. This is a time in which the wealthier sectors should realize and understand the need to make an effort to be generous. This is a time in which we must share the work in order to find a joint solution. I have already said that we are not going to find solutions from one day to the next, but I swore from one day to the next that we would invert the situation, do away with injustice, immorality, stealing, and everything that prostrated us while we allowed ourselves to be robbed from within the country and abroad. [applause and shouting]

Today we once again summon all Argentine citizens [shouting interrupts Alfonsin], we summon all Argentine citizens, regardless of their ideologies or political parties, to carry out actions which will be consolidated through our participation. For this reason we are now, specifically, summoning the various social sectors to form part of the council that will be in charge of discussing basic salary with an escalator clause that will be issued as a law as soon as Congress decides to debate it. [applause] We also summon the various ad hoc commissions to discuss the incomes policy, the price and salary policy, and jointly find a harmonious way of consolidating the Argentina we all deserve, the Argentina that our ancestors dreamt about, the Argentina that each and every one of us knows we are going to achieve soon because we have everything at hand to make a great country. Basically, the most important resource we must take into account is human resources, a fantastic, working, intelligent people who want to carry out an effort to do away with so much disagreement. I congratulate the people of Cordoba, I thank you people of Cordoba for this splendid demonstration of democratic faith, of participation by citizens.

Rest assured that we continue to be as humble as usual, that we are convinced we are just another one of the many Argentine citizens who are willing to make the necessary effort not to fail and that democracy is not going to fail since it has the enthusiastic support of thousands of Argentine citizens who are already enjoying the happiness of the future. [shouting and applause]

CAPUTO TERMS LEAK OF NOTE TO UK 'IRRESPONSIBLE'

PY151940 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo stated here today that he considers as an act "of absolute irresponsibility" the publication of an Argentine counterproposal to Great Britain for the resumption of talks on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. He said that the publication of this document, which is considered a state secret, has left the Argentine negotiators in a "very delicate" situation because it has caused "a certain uneasiness among their British counterparts." Caputo added that the government has begun legal actions to identify the person responsible for the publication of the secret document and that "all the force of the law" will be imposed to punish the person who may be responsible, who could be a foreign ministry official.

On other matters, the foreign minister stated that "some political observers" seem to suffer "a little shortsightedness" on analyzing his management, and invited them to make "objective and concrete criticisms." He denied that the $45 million credit granted to Nicaragua recently has anything to do with ideological positions, as reported by the observers, and explained that it was granted for the purchase of Argentine products.

The foreign minister also said that the Beri and Frost and Sullivan reports, which outline a gloomy panorama of the Argentine political future, "is absolute nonsense" from the methodological standpoint. In an interview granted to Radio Mitre this morning, he said that "judging from 3 months of government and some economic data, to come to the conclusion of how long a government will last is really not very responsible."

Capututo only attached relative importance to the Senate's rejection of the government bill for union reorganization saying that "this position of intransigence on the part of Peronism forces the government to implement legislation, which we do not want, to allow the return of democracy to the unions." The minister went on to say that "these are the ups and downs of democracy and they should not scare anybody." In another part of his conversation with journalist Bernardo Neustadt on Radio Mitre, the minister said that the government officials "are members of the Radical Civic Union but are not naive," referring to a comment made by Neustadt.

Commenting on the release of the foreign ministry's note to the British Government published by AMBITO FINANCIERO last Tuesday, he said that, personally, he "greatly" regrets this episode. Upon admitting that a copy of the original note had to be delivered to the newspaper by a foreign ministry official, Caputo labeled the action of this official as an act of "absolute irresponsibility" which is not in accord with the obligations of a member of the foreign service.

He refused to judge the newspaper's attitude for publishing the document, saying that that was not his mission. He explained, however, that all the copies of the original "carried a large seal saying 'Secret', therefore the person who released it released a state secret." [passage indistinct] kept secret "by a basic rule of courtesy with the other party because, on the contrary, it would have been interpreted as an element of pressure by our part." Caputo said that Article 223 of the penal code punishes any official found guilty of disclosing secret information affecting national security with up to 8 years in prison without being eligible for release on bail.

BORRAS ON MILITARY REORGANIZATION, BUDGET

PY160055 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2101 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 15 Mar (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras today announced here the government's intention to decrease as much as possible the military budget. He also denied that new arms will be purchased and he reasserted that there is a draft law under study to decrease the mandatory military service. The defense minister also noted that 2 April [anniversary of the attack on the Falklands] will be commemorated without any political connotations.

Borras made these announcements during an exclusive interview with TELAM which was held at the end of the joint military maneuvers. During the interview, Borras denied a statement made by Fermin Mignone, head of the Legal and Social Studies Center, CELS, who said that there are no plans to prosecute General Luciano Benjamin Menendez.

Borras also talked about the reorganization of the Armed Forces, noting that there is a study to decrease military service as much as possible without affecting the operating capacity of the Armed Forces. The defense minister added that "the reorganization of the Armed Forces will be done by stages since there is no organization that can reorganize itself, nor is there any organization that can be completely reorganized from outside without its participation." He noted: "This means that the executive branch has established the general guidelines for this reorganization. This will be the basis for a stage of analysis so that it will be the Armed Forces which will be in charge of implementing this reorganization. We are now in the analysis stage."

During the interview the defense minister admitted that it would be very difficult to establish the percentage of the military budget at this time since it would take a long discussion. There are figures ranging from 6.6 to 3 percent of the GDP. Moreover, we would have to differentiate between those industries that are directly subordinated to defense. He added: "What we can state is that there will be a considerable decrease in the defense budget. This will benefit other national sectors. But all this will be done without affecting the operational capacity of our Armed Forces since we cannot go without defensive coverage because of probable conflicts." Borras noted that there will be no purchases of arms although some materiel may be replaced. But he noted there will be no purchases of new arms.

Asked about the Armed Forces reaction about the government's intention to decrease the military budget, Borras noted that the Armed Forces have shown willingness to make a maximum effort in this regard. He added that we have to get used to the idea that there is no more unrest within the Armed Forces, that they are subordinated to the executive branch.

SENATE VOTES DOWN TRADE UNION BILL 24 TO 22

PY151331 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Senate voted down the draft bill on trade unions by 24 votes to 22. The executive branch submitted this bill to Congress on 19 December and had obtained the approval of the Chamber of Deputies. The 21 Justicialist senators voted against the bill along with Elias Sapaz and Jorge Solana of the Neuquen Popular Movement and Manuel Vidal of the Integration and Development Movement of Formosa Province.

The 18 senators of the Radical Civic Union, and those of San Juan Bloquista Party and the Corrientes Autonomous-Liberal Pact voted in favor of the bill.

According to regulations, the rejected draft bill cannot be brought up for discussion again until the next legislative year which begins on 1 May. This means that in 45 days the executive branch will be able to pursue its attempts to push the bill through.

Alfonsin Regrets Rejection

PY161151 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] After attending the ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR of Cordoba, President Raul Alfonsin talked with journalists. He told them that the rejection of the trade union bill was unfortunate, adding that this is how democracy works. He said: We are working openly and aboveboard to fulfill an electoral commitment which was part of our electoral platform and had been reiterated in many speeches, so no one should be surprised by our attitude.

He added that the majority of the Argentine people had voted for this platform. He said: In any case we are sure that there are other courses of action which can be taken to bring about democratization and we are not going to give up until this is achieved. Questioned about these courses of action, he explained: I am sure that we will be able to give the Argentine workers the possibility of electing their own leaders like the rest of the people without having to resort to certain attitudes which are not in keeping with the current status quo. He also said that this is not intended to harm anyone and that we have never sought to build a Radical Civic Union labor movement. He added: It was never our intention to displace any leaders; what we do want is to allow everyone to decide for himself without fear or tutelage who his union leader should be.

Asked whether the political dialogue will continue, Alfonsin answered that it was never severed. It is there and I do believe that it must be broadened.

Asked about the apparent political sluggishness during the 100 days of his administration, Alfonsin indicated that there had been no sluggishness, but rather there has been unrest, impatience.

Asked whether he will continue as leader of the Radical Civic Union, Alfonsin answered that that will be up to the members. He reasserted that the democratic process Argentina is undergoing is here to stay.

FORMER PRESIDENT, ECONOMY MINISTER FACE TRIAL

PY152301 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Former President Jorge Videla and former Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz are going to be tried for alleged irregularities in the transfer of Austral Airlines to the state, according to charges made by the national prosecutor for administrative investigations. This decision was made by Federal Judge Miguel Julian del Castillo who is going to question Videla and Martinez de Hoz next week because the two officials are the ones who signed the decree authorizing the transfer. The national prosecutor charged Videla, Martinez de Hoz, and the executive board of the National Development Bank for the alleged crimes of abuse of authority and violation of the duties of public employees.

FORMER PRESIDENT TO MEET ADN MEMBERS IN LA PAZ

PY151955 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Former President General Hugo Banzer Suarez has arrived in La Paz. He has said that the objective of his trip is to talk with and exchange views on major issues with ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] lawmakers. Banzer Suarez is the leader of the ADN.

The leadership of the ADN, which gained substantial support in the 1980 elections, has decided to issue a document stating its position toward the situation prevailing in our country.

MUNICIPAL WORKERS BEGIN INDEFINITE STRIKE

PY151324 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The general indefinite strike ordered by the La Paz municipal workers' union, demanding that the pertinent authorities fulfill their economic demands, began last night at midnight.

Mario Cuenca, secretary general of this union, stated that the measure was adopted because the 8-day deadline to pay the retroactive wage readjustment [reintegro salarial] for the months of December 1983 and January and February 1984 had already passed and the workers had not yet been paid.

Cuenca added that the municipal workers also demand that their salaries be put on par with those of the rest of the public servants, especially the Finance Ministry employees, in addition to the implementation of the 57 percent salary increase recently ordered by the government and which should be granted as follows: 30 percent over the basic salary and 27 percent on extra earnings.

FSB CONFIRMS ARREST OF LEADER, MEMBERS

PY161100 Paris AFP in Spanish 0135 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 15 Mar (AFP) -- The rightist Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) today confirmed the arrest of seven FSB militants, among whom is FSB leader Antonio Anze Jimenez, on charges of alleged involvement in terrorist activities.

The sources reported that the arrests were made at the beginning of the week in operations carried out by the interior minister.

The city of La Paz was shaken last week by powerful dynamite explosions.

The government headed by President Hernan Siles Zuazo attributed these attacks to a psychological campaign aimed at creating an atmosphere for staging a coup d'etat against the constitutional regime. Official sources did not deny or confirm the arrest of the FSB militants. The FSB, a party that was established over 3 decades ago, is staunchly opposed to the present government, but has little support among the people.

FIGUEIREDO REAFFIRMS NO DIRECT ELECTION STAND

PY160240 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The nation's president believes that changing the election system to choose his successor will be like stripping the members of the Electoral College of the mandates given to them by the people. This was the position which President Figueiredo reaffirmed tonight while speaking over a nationwide television network to mark the fifth anniversary of his government. Recalling that state governors and the members of the Electoral College are chosen in the same elections, Figueiredo affirmed that the mandate of the Electoral College members is just as legitimate as the mandate of the governors. The president also dismissed the idea that direct presidential elections could lead to a solution for the economic crisis, adding that many people are being deceived in this. Figueiredo said that, if direct elections were a solution, there would be no crisis in countries where presidents are elected through such a method.

Figueiredo also acknowledged that many people are in favor of direct elections, and that he himself favors them. He said that everything has an appropriate time, and since everybody wants a stable democracy, he advised Brazil not to try to amend the Constitution every time an electoral result is not the one expected.

Defends Position in Interview

PY161231 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0339 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 15 Mar (EFE) -- The Brazilian chief executive, General Joao Figueiredo, today clearly stated the opposition of his regime to the reestablishment of direct presidential elections which the opposition party and public opinion in general are demanding.

The president said that the time has not come for direct elections. He said this in the course of an interview set up by the official propaganda service as part of a special television program -- broadcast in network -- on the occasion of Figueiredo's fifth year in power. Gen Figueiredo supported "indirect elections now" and defended the "legitimate democratic status" of the Electoral College which will indirectly appoint his successor in January next year.

During the interview, Figueiredo announced that during his remaining year in power the constitution will be amended to allow direct presidential elections. However, these elections could never be held before the end of the 6-year term in office of Figueiredo's successor. The Brazilian chief executive made it very clear that the next president will be appointed by the Electoral College and only the latter's successor will be elected directly, which means that direct elections will not be held in Brazil before 1990. According to Figueiredo, the constitutional amendment reestablishing direct elections in Brazil must be made "in an atmosphere of tranquillity, without upheavals, in a timely and balanced manner, without haste."

He added that as chief executive, "it is his duty to prevent" opposition pressure on Congress aimed at securing the support of progovernment lawmakers in order to guarantee the two-thirds majority needed to amend the Constitution and reestablish direct elections.

Gen Figueiredo stated that he has fulfilled his promise to restore democracy in Brazil, a promise he made when he took the oath of office on 15 March 1979. "Today, after 5 years of government, I am satisfied because we do live in a democracy," Figueiredo said.

According to the observers, strong trend in favor of direct elections exposed by opinion polls is a result of the severe economic crisis which has plagued the country during Figueiredo's administration. Figueiredo said, however, that "it is a mistake" to believe that direct presidential elections would mean the beginning of the end of the crisis. "What the government needs is everyone's participation to defeat the crisis," Figueiredo said.

CMN IMPOSES TAX ON STEEL EXPORTS TO U.S.

PY152131 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Mar 84 p 23

[Text] Brasilia -- The National Monetary Council (CMN) yesterday decided to impose a 27.42 percent tax on thin steel sheets and rolled steel exported exclusively to the United States. The tax imposed is equivalent to the surcharge the United States has just imposed on Brazilian steel imports.

According to explanations by Central Bank experts, the measure was adopted to enable Brazil to notify the U.S. Commerce Department, before a final decision on imposing the surcharge is made by the International Trade Commission (ITC) on 18 April, that exports of steel sheets are no longer subsidized. The surcharge on steel sheets was imposed as a preliminary measure on 7 February by the U.S. Commerce Department under the allegation that Brazil grants a 27.42 percent subsidy to steel sheet exports. This resulted from accusations filed by U.S. steel manufacturers that Brazilian subsidies were hurting the domestic steel industry.

According to the CMN resolution, the tax will be charged until 30 April 1985, when, as explained by Central Bank experts, the Manufactured Goods Tax Refund on exports [credito-premio] will be removed.

GUERREIRO MEETS VENEZUELAN COUNTERPART ON TRADE

PY152340 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Brazilian and Venezuelan Foreign Ministers Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro and Isidro Morales today met in Caracas in an effort to reactivate bilateral trade. To achieve this objective, Saraiva believes that it is necessary to arrange for a series of inter-ministerial meetings with a view toward reactivating the Venezuelan-Brazilian Coordinating Committee, which has not met since 1981. Saraiva announced that the signatory countries of the Amazonian Pact will hold several technical and scientific meetings and seminars in the near future.

BRIEFS

ALADI, OVERALL TRADE IN 1983 -- Rio de Janeiro, 9 Mar (AFP) -- According to official statistics released here today, in 1983 Brazil had a negative balance of $149,455,000 in its trade with the 10 other member countries of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Brazilian exports to ALADI countries totaled $2,054,542,000, while Brazilian imports from ALADI countries $2,203,997,000. In 1983 the Brazilian overall trade balance showed a $6,491,412,000 surplus. Exports totaled $21,899,333,000 and imports $15,407,921,000. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1026 GMT 9 Mar 84 PY]

U.S. OFFICIAL: TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY WANTED

PY151513 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] S ephen Bosworth, head of a U.S. Department of State delegation, stated at the end of the first round of multilateral [as heard] talks held at the Foreign Ministry that the United States wants to see a peaceful transition toward democracy in Chile and that the people must be allowed to participate in the transition process. The Chilean delegation includes Foreign Policy Director General Mario Barros and other Foreign Ministry officials. The U.S. delegation was later received by Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle.

Regarding the rounds of multilateral talks, Bosworth said that they are a good opportunity to learn about the Chilean Government's views on various world problems, to explain Washington's views on them, and to exchange views with Chilean Foreign Ministry officials. Bosworth added that they are also a good opportunity to explain to their Clilean colleagues U.S. relations with the USSR, the Middle East, and Central America. During the first meeting, the two delegations discussed mainly Latin American problems and today they will focus on topics such as the Pacific, disarmament, and international terrorism.

IRAQI PLANE DEPARTS WITH LOAD OF CLUSTER BOMBS

PY151220 Paris AFP in Spanish 1149 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 15 Mar (AFP) -- It has been reported that a Boeing 747 belonging to the Iraqi airline, which made a 23-hour stopover in Santiago, today returned to its country of origin after taking on a load of bombs manufactured in Chile. It has been learned that the plane was parked in the loading sector of the Merino Benitez International Airport, where it took on a load of cluster bombs manufactured by the Chilean firm CARDOEN. Chilean television, basing its reports on eyewitnesses, has reported that there were 30 persons travelling on the plane. They were presumably technicians and officers of the Iraqi Armed Forces. Iraq and Iran are fighting a war that has now gone on for 3 years.

The manufacturing firm, in a statement, has indicated that it was not responsible for the presence of the Iraqi plane in Chile, but it did admit that the Iraqi authorities that were travelling on the plane did contact the firm. The statement adds that the firm has not and will not release details that could violate agreements that have been achieved in negotiations of this type.

DELEGATION GOES TO ROME TO REVIEW BEAGLE TALKS

PY151657 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Colonel Ernesto Videla, head of the Chilean delegation to the Vatican mediation process, has travelled to the Vatican to review the negotiations with the representatives of the pope and the Argentine Government. Before departing, Videla said that the Chilean delegation had submitted a report to the president of the Republic and later to the junta. He added that [in Chile] he had reviewed general aspects of the various issues which are being discussed in Rome. Col Videla said that it is difficult to establish a specific date for the conclusion of the negotiations and the signing of a final agreement. However, he said, we are willing to find a prompt solution to the conflict. He expressed his belief that this solution will be found soon. Col Videla traveled to Rome with Ambassador Santiago Benavadas and Attorney Patricio Prieto.

BISHOP: NO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH UNITS

PY152055 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The example given by the Puerto Montt archbishop prohibiting the use of church facilities for political activities has received great support. Msgr Eladio Vicuna Aranguiz said that church facilities cannot be used for political activities.

This clear example given by the archbishop should be followed by other priests because it clearly explains the role and objectives of clergymen in the church. Msgr Vicuna was clear in emphasizing the parishes, church-run schools, retreat houses, and other church facilities can be used only for religious activities. The archbishop said that church facilities are prohibited for political activities whether of the right, center, or left wing. The Puerto Montt archbishop was emphatic in pointing out the people requesting church facilities for political activity can use other non-church facilities.

UNION LEADER: EL TENIENTE MINE TO IGNORE STRIKE

PY151643 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Guillermo Medina, leader of the El Teniente mineworkers union, has stated that the mineworkers will not observe the strike. Medina made this statement at the end of a meeting with the president of the Republic at La Moneda.

[Begin Medina recording] The strike does not concern us because we have no problems with our employers. Therefore, the strike is not justified in our case. We have signed an agreement up to 1985 and we will not hold any strikes until then. We will hold a strike in 1985 only if we do not reach another agreement with our employers. [end recording]

FOUR PRIESTS IN ANCUD RECEIVE DEATH THREATS

PY152120 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Relay from Radio Estrella del Mar, in Ancud, Chiloe by (Christian Arismendi)]

[Text] Four priests, members of the San Carlos Parish in Ancud, have received anonymous death threats. The victims of this intimidating action are Father Andres Debergue, parish priest of Ancud; Amado Garay, secretary of the bishop's office; Renato Yavio, assistant vicar; and Vicente Balaguer, delegate of the episcopate office for communications from the Chiloe, (?Ballena), and Guaitecas bishop's offices.

The four priests received the death threats yesterday in envelopes sent from Puerto Varas, in the 10th Region.

The threats are signed with the acronym MCCM, Movement Against the Marxist Cancer, and by the GRANMA anti-Marxist terrorist organization.

The envelopes contained two messages. The first read, quote: Marxist Priests, Get Out, end quote. The other message was a death threat noting that: Your head and your mouth will be sawed-off and later riddled with bullets.

It must be noted that several domestic leaders in the area have already been the target of these anonymous threats.

INDUSTRIES DISPLAY WEAPONS AT AIR FAIR

PY151910 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Mar 84 pp C1, C6

[Excerpts] At the International Air Fair [FIDA], which ends today, Sunday [11 March] at the "El Bosque" Airbase, Chilean industries have displayed radar alarm systems, rocket launchers, airplanes, armored vehicles, and seats for the "Pillan" airplane.

The level achieved by Chile in manufacturing war materiel has been noted with great satisfaction by a high-ranking official who, after a tour through the fair, stated smilingly: "Indeed, we have to build a monument to Kennedy." He was referring to U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, who issued the bill which triggered the embargo on weapons which still prevails. It has been reiterated that this bill has indirectly caused domestic development in the defense industry sector.

"Sogeco" is producing a 20-mm twin antiaircraft cannon for artillery and air defense. It has been developed with the Chilean Air Force [FACH]. Its two-wheel trailer can be pulled by a light truck. The battery can slso be deployed on the ground on three mounting brackets. It fires 2,100 rounds a minute. It has a Ferranti aiming system and its cannons are of the Oerlikon type. "There is a project to connect it to a radar and computer system," it was noted.

This industry has also been awarded with the manufacturing of seats for "Pillan" planes, which are manufactured by ENAER [National Aeronautics Company]. These seats are made of "duralumin" and their design and manufacture are national.

The FACH Research and Development Board, headed by General Fritz Dreyer, is showing the "Caiquen II" radar alert system for fighter planes. It is designed to "alert" the pilot when his plane is being tracked by a threatening radar. Civil engineer Fernando Matthei Fornet, son of the Air Force commander in chief, has said that "it is currently under production and being mounted on airplanes."

The "Eclipse" system of ejecting blank cartridges to create false targets for fire control radars is also in its final development stage. "It is a passive system of electronic warfare. The purpose of flares is to deceive infrared missiles."

"Itata" is an electronic intelligence system mounted on light transport airplanes to detect, find, and measure the characteristics of radiation of all types of radars. The control units and antennas have been purchased abroad, but the receivers and pulse analyzers have been designed, developed, and manufactured in the country.

The CARDOEN enterprise displayed nine versions of armored vehicles and the cluster bomb, launchers for 7 and 19 10-mm rockets, the 70-mm unidirectional rocket, and the FZ-68 and another simple 70-mm rocket. A modern antitank and antiaircraft cannon turret could also be observed by experts and the people. The effective range of the cannon mounted on the turret is 1,800 meters, it was said.

An agreement was just signed between the Swiss Industrial Society (SIG) and FAMAE [Army Ordnance] to manufacture in Santiago the SG 542-1 rifle which will meet regional needs and possible exports.

FIDA's development coincided with the signing of a contract for the manufacture of 80 "Pillan" planes, the first of which have already left the hanger. One plane a week will be made, and there are some South American and European countries -- at least five -- which are interested in purchasing them for basic pilot training.

DEATH TOLL CLIMBS IN FLORENCIA TAKEOVER

PA150448 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0410 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Florencia (Colombia), 14 Mar (EFE) -- At least 40 persons died during the M-19 guerrilla takeover of the Colombian city of Florencia, in the southern region.

The Red Cross, Civil Defense, and other assistance groups told EFE that 10 more corpses were found late last night in the outskirts of Florencia, increasing the number of victims to 40.

Likewise, local officials estimated that some 45 persons have been taken to hospitals, health centers, and emergency posts in the neighborhood of Malvinas, where M-19 guerrilla members apparently sought refuge after the troops' onslaught forced them to withdraw.

Twenty-six persons were killed including 16 guerrilla members, and 25 others were seriously wounded during the M-19 attack, which lasted for 3 hours.

The army said the attack was perpetrated by columns of the M-19 "Southern Front," led by Gustavo Arias Londono, alias "Boris." They arrived in buses, dressed as peasants, and hid among the people.

The dead rebels' corpses have been taken to the headquarters of the "Juanambu" Battalion. Military officers revealed that more than 30 rebels have been arrested.

In addition to the attack on Florencia, other M-19 commandos simultaneously attacked the towns of Doncello, Sebastopol, and Paujil, in what the military officers described as diversionary tactics to achieve their objective in the capital of Caqueta Department.

Department Returns to Normal

PA151908 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Florencia -- Florencia has returned to normalcy, peace has returned to this city, the capital of Caqueta Department.

The presence of the Army has restored full confidence to the residents, and everything is normal, both in Florencia and the rest of the department.

The government, national defense, and communications ministers are currently examining the public order situation with the high military command. The officials have found a calm situation and have received a full report by regional authorities indicating that there is no need to adopt further measures.

M-19 EXPELS LEADER OF FLORENCIA ATTACK

PA160112 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2207 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, 15 Mar (EFE) -- High-level leaders of the 19 April (M-19) guerrilla movement have expelled Gustavo Arias Londono, alias "Boris," from the organization. Arias Londono was responsible for the attack on the Colombian city of Florencia on Wednesday.

Ivan Marino Ospina, main leader of the M-19, and Alvaro Fayad, second in command, announced that the attack in which more than 30 people were killed, was conducted without their consent and is reproachable because it creates division.

A communique broadcast over CARACOL Radio Network and released to EFE states that "Boris" is genocidal and that the attacks on Florencia, a city of 100,000, has worked against peace in the country.

The top M-19 leaders also threatened to confront "Boris" at "a military level, with the certainty that our view will prevail."

"The fact that 'Boris' has bypassed his superiors and carried out military actions that run contrary to our organization's policy has been absolutely rejected by the National Directorate and the High Command, and has led us to decide to expel him from the movement," the leaders said.

"We invite 'Boris'," the communique adds, "to stop his divisive actions, to stop the bloodshed in the fields of Caqueta, to stop leading our companeros to suicide, and to face up to the current situation with a greater grasp of reality than he reveals in his present role as a simple genocidal bandit."

Similarly, Ospina and Fayad invited those who are following Arias Londono and their "companeros" in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Popular Liberation Army, and the National Liberation Army, to reject this "counterrevolutionary."

They also ask these groups to "refuse to make agreements with him, because he has placed his personal interests above those of the M-19 and of the Colombian people; thus today he deserves our repudiation."

The M-19 document also states that messages have been sent out internationally to prevent "Boris" from diverting contributions from allied governments and organizations "with deceit, which would supplant our movement's true and sole leadership."

The M-19 High Command has been in contact with President Belisario Betancur's government to seek ways to facilitate the restoration of peace in the country.

In October 1983, Betancur had a meeting with Ospina and Fayad in Madrid, a move which had generated some hope for peace in the country.

DEFENSE MINISTER CITED ON OILFIELD ATTACK

PA151929 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Eight people sustained gunshot wounds -- five civilians and three soldiers, one of them is in serious condition -- after a group of people attacked and tried to destroy installations of the (Sifriri) Oilfield, according to a Defense Ministry report.

The defense minister [Jorge Arciniegas Salazar] said that as of now the Armed Forces' mission is ... [announcer leaves sentence incomplete]

[Begin recording] [Arciniegas, in progress] ... that which corresponds to their responsibility of guarding national installations using their resources to fulfill their mission.

[Unidentified reporter] What degree of security is currently in effect at oil wells and the national hydrocarbons network?

[Arciniegas] The maximum degree of security, because the public force, the Armed Forces, and the Army are guarding the installations and will ensure that no incidents occur.

[Reporter] According to unofficial reports there were some deaths.

[Arciniegas] [Sentence indistinct] No, there have been no deaths. The events were described in the communique of the Public Relations Department of the Defense Ministry. The installation of [word indistinct] installation indicated... [changes thought] Under Army surveillance was... [changes thought] Attempts were made to assault it and to disarm the military personnel, who reacted as required because a military installation must be defended. Military personnel have no other resources or elements than their weapons. Strike leaders have been told that they have a great responsibility, because according to regulations an installation under military guard must be defended.

[Reporter] What are the [word indistinct] for the defense of installations, even to fire at people approaching them?

[Arciniegas] A military installation with military personnel is regarded as a garrison. Military personnel are provided with arms. Of course, we do not want any confrontation. This is the reason for my plea to those responsible. They must consider the consequences. As defense minister I do not want confrontation. There must be good sense. When faced with attacks on military installations we have to act accordingly.

[Reporter] Minister, what [words indistinct] that the oil area has been militarized?

[Arciniegas] No, the military garrison in the region has the military (?supplies) it always has on hand and is fulfilling all of its duties, throughout the country. [end recording]

These were statements by the national defense minister.

Meanwhile, Mayor Visindo of Tena reports from the strike committee's headquarters in Napo-Pastaza:

[Begin Visindo recording] The strike in Napo-Pastaza Province has continued undaunted. The dialogue with the government commission to analyze problems in this Amazon Province was suspended last night because the commission had not been empowered by the government to negotiate a bill assigning a permanent income to Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces. The civic forces in these two provinces and the respective strike committees have declared that the bill is not negotiable with the government. For this reason, Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces -- the latter went on an indefinite strike at noon -- await a response from the legislative and executive branches in order to engage in dialogue and reach an understanding. [end recording]

The Tena mayor added that they reject situations such as that in Shushufindi, which have resulted in eight wounded.

[Begin Visindo recording] We simply reiterate the Amazon people's peaceful, cultured stance. [end recording]

These were statements by the mayor of Tena, in Napo-Pastaza Province.

In suspending the talks, the government commission took into account the stalemate which has arisen over the bill creating direct revenues from oil activities, which the government considers illegal.

The bill, which would assign a percentage of oil revenues to Esmeraldes and Napo-Pastaza Provinces, has been officially withdrawn. In a note to the president of Congress, Deputy Galo Vayas says that: On 12 March, on behalf of Deputies Jorge Chiriboga, Luis Mejia, and the undersigned, we submitted a bill that would establish a tax of 26 cents on the transportation of oil through the oil pipeline for the benefit of Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas Provinces. At the request of the sponsors of the bill, I take the liberty of withdrawing it in order to expedite proceedings.

The note is signed by Galo Vayas Salazar, deputy to the National Congress

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY RESERVES -- A Central Bank source has announced that the country's international monetary reserves were $114 million in February, an increase over the $93 million recorded in January, which was the lowest level since 1972. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Mar 84 PA]

LOAN NEGOTIATED WITH JAPAN -- A $7 million loan was negotiated with Japan, which is to be repaid over 8 years at an interest rate of 11 percent. This move was part of the Ecuadoran foreign debt renegotiation. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Mar 84 PA]

OIL EXPORTS -- Ecuador has sold all its exportable oil in long-term contracts at $27.50 per barrel, according to Patricio Rivadeneira, manager of Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE]. To date, he noted, CEPE has placed 93,000 barrels daily in the world market, and recent negotiations have produced 3 new customers that will buy a total of 30,000 barrels daily. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Mar 84 PA]

COLORADO PARTY SCORES U.S. TEXTILE RESTRICTIONS

PY151351 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 3 Mar 84 p 5

[Excerpts] The Colorado Party has released a communique stating its position regarding the situation created for the textile industry by the restrictions imposed on our textile exports to the U.S. market. The party secretary general Julio M. Sanguinetti also said that "the discriminatory measure was unfair" to an important sector of national production.

In a contact with EL DIA, Sanguinetti said: We have made a declaration of our vigorous protest against the restrictions imposed by the United States where there is no evidence that damage is being inflicted on the U.S. textile industry, which is working full tilt, and considering that the bilateral trade balance with the United States is unfavorable for Uruguay. We feel that this is a very serious discrimatory measure affecting a traditionally important sector as far as employment is concerned, now as well as for the future. The industry is being hit at a time when it is the only one that is rebounding and the consequences will be felt until 1985-1986, when it will then become our responsibility.

[Question] What is the reason for the U.S. decision, in your opinion?

[Sanguinetti] It is based on protests by the local industry, of course. So a renegotiation with 140 countries was opened. We are not saying that this is directed at Uruguay alone, because there are many countries affected. But we say that it is unfair to Uruguay. It might be fair in other situations but not in the situation of Uruguay, for the reasons I noted before. There is no damage to the U.S. industry in products Uruguay sells: wollen fabrics, woolen clothing, knit woolen fabrics. The U.S. industry may have a problem with Korean or Chinese cotton but that is different. So the U.S. industry exerts pressure trying to close the market, but unjustly in our case.

COLORADO, BLANCO PARTIES SEEKING REAPPROACHMENT

PY151855 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The leaders of the Colorado and Blanco Parties have concurred on the need to reach an agreement. Interviewed by Radio El Espectador journalists this morning, the leaders reaffirmed their desire to reach an understanding.

After the meeting which Colorado leader Julio Maria Sanguinetti held yesterday with Blanco leader Juan Pivel Devoto, the door was opened for dialogue between the two parties. The executive secretary of the Colorado Party National Board indicated that talks will continue to unite the parties in the common goal of participating in the elections scheduled for next November. One of the first steps in the attainment of this objective will be the reorganization of the interparty committee, which will be carried out very soon.

MINISTER ON FERREIRA ALDUNATE, ELECTIONS

PY160210 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] According to the government and the Armed Forces, Wilson Ferreira Aldunate is a man wanted by the law. This remark was made by the interior minister tonight. The minister also disclosed that no contacts of any kind were held between military men and politicians of the Blanco Party to try to find a solution to the situation of the proscribed political leader.

Minister Julio Cesar Rapela emphasized that the position of the government and the Armed Forces in relation to Wilson Ferreira Aldunate is very clear, that Ferreira is a man wanted by the military court, and that if Ferreira decides to return to Uruguay he will be turned over to the law. The minister added that as long as the present conditions prevail the government will not take any initiative on this matter; therefore, it is logical to maintain the proscription on Ferreira Aldunate.

Rapela reiterated that there has always been an interest and a conviction that democracy should be reestablished in the country under certain conditions. The interior minister also said that the Armed Forces have the firm intention of holding elections next November, and that everyone knows that before elections are held it will be necessary to establish electoral rules and constitutional provisions. He went on to say that the exact date of the elections cannot be determined until an agreement is reached. He said: I cannot say whether the election date will be postponed or not because I believe that the reapproachment being achieved in the current negotiations indicate that an agreement will be reached, and that it will not be necessary to postpone the elections. The minister said that it is possible to reach a common national accord because great progress has been made in the contacts between politicians and military men. He indicated that the solutions to be proposed by the Armed Forces will be acceptable for reaching an understanding.

General Julio Cesar Rapela said that there are no missing persons in Uruguay. In reference to the publication of lists of missing persons in several weeklies, the minister said that there are no missing persons in our country. He added that what could have happened is that some people left the country and their whereabouts are unknown. Asked about the possibility of meeting with citizens who say that they have missing relatives, Rapela said that he does not have any instructions on this matter. He said, however, that the Interior Ministry receives all reports on missing persons, and that they are processed if appropriate. Regarding the possible disappearance of children in Uruguay, the minister said that this issue is not under his jurisdiction. Rapela recalled that some time ago a list of alleged missing Uruguayans circulated in the United Nations and other international organizations, but that these people were actually missing has never been proved.

NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS ON FERREIRA'S RETURN

PY151822 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] According to statements made yesterday by Gonzalo Aguirre at the end of a lengthy meeting of the National Party leadership, candidate for president of the National Party [Wilson Ferreira Aldunate], who has been proscribed and is living abroad, "has confirmed the policy implemented by the National Party leadership and advocates the holding of free and real elections, that is, without proscribed citizens or excluded political parties, on 25 November."

Gonzalo Aguirre added that those are the conditions demanded by the "National Party and other political parties during the meeting held on 27 November at the obelisk." Therefore, during the meetings held (with the proscribed party leader) no changes were made in the party's current policy but rather it was fully confirmed."

Referring to the letter received by Pivel Demote, which was delivered by Alembert Vaz and Jose Radicioni, Aguirre stated that it was personal. Therefore, Pivel could hardly be asked to reveal its contents. Pivel, for his part, refused to comment on the letter, stating that it refers to "secret issues."

On the other hand, and for the first time since he held the talks, Pivel admitted having met with Armed Forces representatives. He termed the meetings "fruitful," stating that personally he was "optimistic" although he considered the meetings as "preliminary" ones. Referring to the statements made yesterday by the Party commander that he believed they were approaching an agreement, Pivel Devoto said that he would have to know exactly what the commander had said before he voiced an opinion since "Admiral Invoidio did not take part in the meetings I held."

Gonzalez Aguirre stated that "I am glad that the member of the Armed Forces -- with the position he has -- is optimistic in this regard, but in order to be realistic one must point out that any agreement must necessarily adjust to the citizenry's demands for genuine elections, that is, that the Armed Forces agree to that logical request that is the cornerstone of future democratic coexistence. He dismissed the possibility of another legally recognized party adopting a contradictory attitude.

After reiterating that the elections should be free of proscriptions and that he had not held any meetings with Armed Forces representatives, Julio Pereyra, referring to the possible return to the country of his presidential ticket partner, maintained that "it is up to him to decide on that issue. It is difficult to make any predictions in this regard, especially when there is a military court warrant out for him." Regarding this issue, the possibility of his [Ferreira Aldunate's] return to the country, and a trial and ban on his political activities even if all proscriptions are lifted, Pereyra said that "if he is tried and sentenced to imprisonment it means that his citizenship will be withdrawn. Therefore, since we do not know that he is being charged with, nor whether he deserves to be sentenced to imprisonment it is difficult to give an opinion. But the lifting of proscriptions would be an important step forward. The rest depends on whether he (his ticket partner) accepts the ruling of a court whose degree of independence he and many others question." Asked what attitude the National Party would adopt if he [Ferreira Aldunate] is tried and denied the right to take part in the elections, Pereyra stated that "I cannot predict the National Party's position. What we have said is that we want to go to the ballot boxes without any proscribed citizens or political parties. This could be an issue that does not pertain to the political sphere although, personally, I think that it is more a political than a penal issue. But this is just a personal opinion since I do not know the details of the charges. But one cannot separate the image of an important political leader from that of a citizen."

Referring to the possibility that parties which may be recognized in the future might subtract votes from the National Party, he stated: "I have thought about that; what we want is that everyone vote for the party that suits their ideas and conscience. This is why we want the full lifting of proscriptions."

GENERAL NORIEGA ACCUSES U.S. OF BLACKMAIL

PA160209 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Panama City, 15 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, today described as "blackmail" the U.S. Senate amendment that makes military aid to Panama contingent upon Panamanian military personnel respecting the electoral campaign and the results of the 6 May elections.

Noriega told ACAN-EFE that the Panama Defense Forces "will not give credence to the amendment, because it means interference in Panama's domestic affairs."

"It is the same kind of blackmail that was employed during the negotiation of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties on the canal," Noriega said.

Noriega said that the Panamanian people do not have fond memories of Senators Daniel Inouye, a Democrat from Hawaii, and Dennis DeConcini from Arizona, who opposed the treaties, under which full sovereignty over canal installations will revert to Panama in the year 2000.

Yesterday the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an amendment that would suspend U.S. military aid to Panama if the military interfere with the course or the results of the May presidential elections. The amendment was sponsored by Inouye and DeConcini.

DENI CHIEF DENIES RUMORS OF BUSINESSMAN'S DEATH

PA152349 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Members of the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama, the National Department of Investigations [DENI], and the Panamanian Red Cross have intensified the search for businessman Sam Kardonski, who disappeared last Saturday night. (Hernan Pasco), chief inspector for DENI in Colon, has denied a series of rumors about the incident.

[Begin Pasco recording] It is very important to state that it is not good that so many people are speculating about the case. Our organizations, the Panamanian Defense Forces and DENI, are in communication. Therefore, if the corpse -- or if any news regarding Sam Kardonski's disappearance or kidnapping is found -- we would be the first to reveal this.

Major Nivaldo Madrinan Aponte is in charge of operations in the province of Colon, along with the commander of the 2d Military Zone, Major Quezada. Also, different state organizations are collaborating and Maj Madrinan has not withheld any information from the press or news media.

We wish to state that we are working on the case, but so far we have no news with which encourage or discourage the people. That is what is most important, and it should be made known that speculation will not be issued through the regular official channels of our Panamanian Defense Forces. [end recording]

Meanwhile, in Panama, Inspector Carlos Robolt, deputy director of DENI, emphasized a few minutes ago that any information about this case should be issued by the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama or DENI, in order to prevent speculation, as has occurred in some news media. Robolt said that a massive investigation began today to comb all areas in which Sam Kardonski might be found.

The General Command of the Panamanian Defense Forces has issued instructions for all necessary support to solve this case. DENI Director General Major Nivaldo Madrinan is in Colon to head the investigation, along with Major Fernando Quezada, leader of the 2d Military Zone.

Mr Kardonski, a 63-year-old businessman and banker who was born in Romania and was a nationalized Panamanian, has been missing since last Sunday night. These shots of his automobile were taken this afternoon at DENI parking lot. The automobile carries traces of blood.

Search Extends to Colombia

PA160350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0206 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, 15 Mar (EFE) -- The Colombian secret police (F-2) today initiated a search in Colombia for Panamanian industrialist Sam Kardonski, who was supposedly taken to Colombia by a group of unidentified individuals who kidnapped him in Panama. An F-2 spokesman said that the Kardonski family in Panama received a long-distance telephone call from Colombia demanding $5 million in ransom for his release.

Kardonski was kidnapped near Colon, Panama, and was taken to parts unknown, but the route taken by the car in which he was abducted, which was later found on the Atlantic coast, indicates that the industrialist was secretly taken to Colombia. A short time after it was learned that Kardonski was taken to Colombia, the security corps started a search for him in Antioquia, Cordoba, and Choco Departments to verify the story and try to rescue him.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION DIRECTORS -- The National Democratic Union [Union Nacional Democratica], UNADE, elected its political directors today. They are David Samudio from the Liberal Party, Azael Vargas from the Labor Party, Jose B. Cardenas from the Republican Party, and Roberto Velasquez from the Democratic Revolutionary Party. [Summary] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Feb 84 pp 1, 31 PA]

NEW BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION -- Yesterday the biweekly publication LA PALESTRA, managed by Raul D. Berbey, began circulation. It is resourceful, combative, and carries much political material. [Text] [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 4-A PA]

COSTA RICA

DEPUTY MINISTER CHACON ACCUSED OF AIDING ARDE

PA152238 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 9-15 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] A confrontation has erupted in the Rural Guard at exactly the same time that another act of provocation was being carried out against Nicaragua. Officers and soldiers under the command of Deputy Interior Minister Enrique Chacon -- strong man in the Interior Ministry and, apparently, in the government as a whole -- were involved in this provocation.

"I Was a Bit in His Way"

Everyone knew about this confrontation. Deputy Minister Chacon's involvement with the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries -- and, probably, with a secret agency that has offices at the U.S. Embassy -- is no secret. Chacon, a low-level, mediocre official who left Firestone, a transnational enterprise, to become a government leech, began to gain increasing power. He was getting support from the contras, which is the same as saying the Reagan administration. This support, of course, is not purely by chance. It has been a two-way street. Apparently, Chacon was placed in the Rural Guard to handle an important mission: to support the aggression against Nicaragua, to give full backing to the counterrevolutionary bands, and to sabotage any government effort to establish friendly relations with Managua. Charges against Chacon began to pile up. His own subordinates began to level charges. It was no one else but Rigoberto Badilla, former commander of the Rural Guard, who put Chacon in the dock, which cost Badilla his job. Apparently, Badilla was following the public security minister's guidelines, which was getting on Chacon's nerves, and this was the reason for Badilla's dismissal. The dismissed officer then warned: "I was a bit in his way. I will, however, deliver serious and conclusive documents proving the participation of Rural Guard officers" in aiding the counterrevolutionaries who operate against Nicaragua from Costa Rica.

Up to His Neck With Pastora

Deputy Minister Chacon has accused Badilla of being "immoral." Badilla, however, considers himself an honest official who wanted to defend the government's neutrality policy, which is why he earned the wrath of Pastora's crony. As Colonel Badilla sees it, everyone knows that the Rural Guard cooperates with the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] bands. Badilla did not want to name the officers who are Pastora's accomplices, but he did stress that Deputy Minister Chacon must be up to his ears in this adventure.

Chacon's Irresistible Climb

Chacon tripped Col Badilla up with the help of Interior Minister Alfonso Carro -- no one is quite sure what this man does in the ministry, besides warming his chair and giving his blessing to Don Enrique, as the deputy minister's subordinates call Chacon. Chacon, who couldn't wait to put on a uniform with silver braid, made himself the director general of the Rural Guard. Now he is facing even fewer obstacles and will surely be able to receive Pastora in his San Jose office without being bothered by "disloyal officials" who believe that the neutrality policy is for real and that it must be obeyed by all authorities. Now Chacon is the boss. Will he someday become the pocket-sized Pinochet that Reagan is seeking for Costa Rica? Don't you think, readers, that it is a shame that people like Chacon can push a nation into war with a sister nation? Who is really provoking the aggression? Is it Nicaragua, or is it people like "Don Enrique" Chacon?

POPULAR VANGUARD PARTY'S DISSENSION CONTINUES

PA150439 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Referring to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal's overturning a civil registry ruling, Eduardo Mora Valverde has said that the Electoral Tribunal was simply exercising its rights. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has invalidated the Popular Vanguard Party [PVP] meeting at which Manuel Mora Valverde was dismissed as secretary general. The Civil Registry, therefore, will also have to annul the PVP's meeting on 2 January, which was held 12 days before the now invalidated meeting that the Mora Valverde brothers had scheduled.

According to Eduardo Mora Valverde, the PVP can still participate in the elections with Manuel Mora Valverde as its main leader.

Meanwhile, the PVP Central Committee has issued a communique in which it accuses the Mora Valverde brothers of immorality for using the party's name when they held the meeting. The communique says that in their futile attempt to legalize their disrespect for Leninist and proletarian principles, the separatists tried to hold a meeting just to reinstate Manuel Mora Valverde as the party's secretary general. This meeting was illegal because the Central Committee did not call it and because the delegates were not appointed by the regional assemblies, as required by the party's by-laws.

Many lies have been told about the PVP and its Central Committee in order to justify its lack of discipline and to disguise the arrogance and vanity of its leaders. The PVP Central Committee communique states that no other communist party in the world faces a similar situation. These lies are a blatant provocation of the party and the people's movement, the Central Committee communique adds. The truth is that the Mora Valverde brothers, who are truly representatives of the bourgeois democracy, have violated the party's by-laws.

The Mora Valverde brothers and their followers are trying to divide the party. By doing so they are seriously affecting the party's ability to struggle for democracy and for the people's welfare, and its responsibility as a defender of the people who are victims of imperialism's attacks and plans, the communique suggests. After this incident and after purging its ranks, the PVP will forge ahead, as it has done before, the party's Central Committee says in its communique.

The PVP will hold its 14th congress in September 1984, and it will be a legitimate, democratic congress of Costa Rican communists, the Central Committee communique says.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA ON 2-YEAR TENURE, TALKS WITH REBELS

PA151531 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 14 Mar 84 pp 3, 78

[Interview with President Alvaro Magana by Francisco Romero Cerna, on 13 March -- place not given]

[Excerpts] The Interview

Question: What is your opinion of the U.S. ambassador's suggestion of possible peace talks with the guerrilla groups?

Answer: "Based on my experience in this area during my tenure, I am somewhat skeptical about the possibility of achieving real results. First of all, they have used what has been referred to as 'dialogue' first for propaganda and second for tactical purposes. They have tried to win time in certain situations. Moreover, I consider this complicated because I do not believe that there is agreement among all the subversive sectors on this problem. I am sure that some may think this is a solution, but other sectors -- which are more radical -- disagree. Therefore, I see little potential in this if the next administration were to decide to initiate such an action."

Sense of Achievement

Question: Three months before you turn over the presidency, what are your personal feelings about your role as president?

Answer: From the beginning I had no illusions, not about the difficulties I faced at the beginning of my administration -- regarding the relatively short 2-year period -- nor the nature of the government itself, which circumstances dictated to be the so-called government of national unity. I said that I had no illusions from the start, but I believe that we have advanced in almost every field, although rather slowly, which has not allowed others to perceive this advance. Perhaps the best way to point out the changes would be to compare 2 May 1982 -- when I took office -- with 2 May 1984. I do believe that you will notice many differences in our political development. We are about to participate in elections, and for me that is progress. Reforms have been defined at the constitutional level. Regarding human rights, I believe that we have made significant progress; in the economic sector, I believe that we have advanced toward recovery and established bases so that the new government will have fewer problems in fulfilling its tasks."

Speaking of Reforms

Question: Do you think that the agrarian reform has been implemented fairly throughout the country? How do you feel about nationalization of banks and the coffee industry?

Answer: "The problem of reforms is too complex to be evaluated. This can be seen both economically, from the viewpoint of efficiency, and in social consequences, which have a different nature. My government's purpose was to discuss these reforms in a climate of calm. Regarding the agrarian reform, party consensus was established in the Constitution. As for the two other reforms, other, different proposals have been made. I think that the next government, in a more peaceful climate and with more deliberation on the good and bad characteristics of the reform, will be able to make the proper decisions."

D'AUBUISSON ANSWERS CHARGES, PREDICTS VICTORY

PA151855 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The professional sector of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, yesterday sponsored a rally at a local hotel. Many people were present at this rally, at which the guests of honor were ARENA's presidential and vice presidential candidates, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson and Hugo Barrera. Maj D'Aubuisson for the first time referred to some of the accusations or sectors within our country and abroad. He spoke specifically of the accusations made by Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, and of accusations that he blames on the Christian Democrats.

The following is a recording of Major D'Aubuisson's address yesterday to ARENA's professional sector:

[Begin D'Aubuisson recording in progress] ...regarding the things that Robert White has said regarding the [words indistinct]. He has lied and has never been able to prove this. [applause] That embassy had more information than any man in our Armed Forces military intelligence could dream of. He knew it all.

In the speech that I made a few days ago in Jocoro I spoke very clearly for the first time in public. I have proof and guarantees about that whole system of intrigue. In a televized message I told Monsignor Romero: You are being used and will continue to be used until you are no longer needed; then they will eliminate you. Stay out of all this; don't continue allowing them to use you. I remember telling him this, and it is recorded. That is what happened, and I had nothing to do with it. I told him that very clearly. [applause] They did the same thing with Mr Chamorro [Pedro Joaquin Chamorro] in Nicaragua. He was one of the big leaders of the Sandinist revolution, but only while it was convenient for the Marxists of that revolution. I told him this, and I have proof of that they accepted their elimination of him -- who did it and why. [applause]

This has been the biggest weapon that Mr Robert White has used against me, yet he was the first one to have the proof. Thank God it was recorded and that the man who organized and prepared it all is in the hands of justice. He has said that Mr White knew of the plan and was aware of what was to be done. Let's see how honest the Gringos can be [applause] in bringing all this to light. [applause, shouts]

[Words indistinct] famous death squads. The biggest death squad is that seeking to condemn the Salvadoran people to failure, poverty, and slavery: All those reporters who have lied about our situation [applause, shouts] [words indistinct] who have lied, they are the death squad; when (?crazy) Duarte asks that no aid be given to the Armed Forces, he is the death squad; the liberal senators and congressmen who oppose our continued struggle of faith against the communists, more than anything to defend U.S. security while they sentence us to death, they are the death squads. [applause]

But I have also spoken very clearly and have said that I find it neither just nor logical that after this wave of violence we should take justice into our own hands, because this won't lead to anything good. This must be stopped. This is why -- and remember that I an mot just saying this, I have demonstrated it through my actions -- I spent 2 years as president of the Constituent Assembly, leaving behind a legal guarantee and fighting all the things that were happening. [applause]

The regrettable thing is that these foreign reporters -- I presume it is because they are not cultured enough, because they are ignorant, [laughter, shouts, applause] or because they refuse to understand -- continue to ask me the same questions, as if I had not spent 2 years before television cameras drafting the Constitution and serving as president of the Constituent Assembly, allowing open deliberations, even running risks. I had had no previous experience, because I had never served as a deputy, I had never been a politician [shouts, applause] [words indistinct].

There is none so deaf as he who will not hear [words indistinct]. [Laughter, applause] [Words indistinct] these last 4 years, and I can guarantee you this: (?The victory) belongs to all of you, because you are Salvadorans and nationalists, and ARENA will win. Neither D'Aubuisson nor Barrera is going to win. [applause] All of us will win. [applause] [end recording]

GENERAL MEDRANO COMMENTS ON DUARTE CHARGES

PA152317 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p 35

[Report on an interview with General Jose Alberto Medrano, retired, secretary general of the Popular Orientation Party; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] 1. According to General Jose Alberto Medrano, retired, who is familiar with the background of Jose Napoleon Duarte, the Christian Democratic Party candidate, Duarte is afraid that evidence will be presented about his collusion with terrorists both in a "social pact" and through his activities on behalf of local and international communism.

2. The general said that for the past 20 days, Duarte has been trying to discredit him locally and internationally so that when he, Medrano, answers Duarte's false charges, people will be predisposed to believe that he is presenting evidence against Duarte simply out of spite.

3. Medrano is indeed the founder of the National Security Agency of El Salvador, ANSESAL, and the Nationalist Democratic Organization, ORDEN. The objective of the two organizations is to prevent communist infiltration of Central America. Their programs originated in the U.S. State Department under the Kennedy administration.

4. ANSESAL was born following a meeting of presidents of the Central American area, Panama, and the United States (Kennedy) in San Jose, Costa Rica, in response to a U.S. State Department suggestion. ORDEN was created to counteract communist infiltration among the peasants.

5. Captain Eduardo Avila [murder suspect] never served under Gen Medrano, although he claims to know his family and to hold him in high esteem as a professional officer. Majors Roeder and D'Aubuisson displayed great professionalism while serving under Medrano.

6. If the death squads were an outgrowth of ANSESAL and ORDEN as Duarte says, then it would be better to say that they were created by order of the U.S. State Department.

7. Medrano hinted at the possible existence of "red" death squads that killed Colonel Palomo and "green" squads that seek to eliminate ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] members. One only needs look at some political parties to see heavily armed civilian guards.

8. Paraphrasing Khrushchev, Medrano said that those who serve the USSR's interests are communists. Therefore, because they serve the communists, Duarte's actions against the Armed Forces show that Duarte is a communist, in Medrano's opinion.

COPREFA ON CUBA, KIDNAPPINGS, RECENT CLASHES

PA150348 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Communiques released by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, date and place not given]

[Text] Cuba is sending better trained advisers to Nicaragua. Cuba's true intentions in Central America, with the militarization of Nicaragua as its main objective, are implicit in comments by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, to THE WASHINGTON POST.

At the time, the Cuban official has admitted that Cuba is sending stronger men with better military training to Nicaragua. He was speaking of the Cuban doctors and teachers who are in that Central American country.

We are arranging it so that they are capable people who can face abnormal situations, Rodriguez said, citing the aggression against Nicaragua as a separate example. While making a veiled reference to the Cuban military presence in Nicaragua, Rodriguez tried to find causes and justifications for this expansionist measure.

Rodriguez also based this decision on the bitter experience of Grenada, an incident that hit the regime hard because it lost a strategic advance post. Cuba has not, however, changed or given up its goals -- to expand its domain beyond its coast -- which are the orders received from its superiors far from America. The Cuban vice president's statements only confirm this, leaving no room for doubt.

Terrorists have kidnapped children. Twenty children between the ages of 10 and 15 were kidnapped by FMLN terrorists over the weekend in El Espinal canton and hamlet, San Rafael Cedros jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department. The families fear that the children will be sent to the so-called revolutionary vocational schools for minors where the extremists train children under the age of 10 in terrorist tactics. These actions carried out by the FMLN against the Salvadoran people show disrespect for human rights. The fact that children are taught to kill and hate cannot be described with other words. All the children want to do is play, the mother of a kidnapped child said.

Meanwhile, the leftist squads have threatened to kill the residents of the Santa Cruz canton and hamlet, La Libertad port jurisdiction, La Libertad Department, if they don't leave the area. The squads attacked Nelson Monterrosa, a minor.

Thirty-three FMLN dead and an unknown number of wounded resulted from clashes reported in northern San Miguel in an operation designed to prevent the concentration of the terrorists in the area. The Armed Forces have reported 4 dead and 25 wounded. The operation was to guarantee security the elections coming up on 25 March.

UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN KILL RETIRED COLONEL

PA151631 San Salvador YSKL in Spanish 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Unidentified men today at 0830 killed Colonel Tito Adalberto Rosa, retired. We repeat: Heavily armed, unidentified men this morning at 0800 [time as heard] shot to death Colonel Tito Adalberto Rosa, retired. The criminal attack occurred in El Hogar neighborhood in La Rabida area of San Salvador. There is as yet no report who carried out this attack. This report has been duly confirmed by the news department of YSKL.

FMLN FACTION STOPS TRAFFIC IN SAN MIGUEL

PA160126 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Mar 84

[By Antonio Alberto Vasquez]

[Text] San Miguel -- At 1130 today, a group of terrorists identifying themselves as members of the LP-28 [28 February People's Leagues], an armed faction of the FMLN, were stopping all vehicles in San Miguel to ask for money.

During the 45 minutes that they did this, they told the drivers that they did to want to see a single vehicle on the road by tomorrow. Whoever disobeyed this order would have his vehicle burned, the terrorists threatened. Gas station owners were similarly warned, especially those in San Miguel. They were told not to sell gasoline, diesel fuel, or oil, because if they did their businesses would be destroyed immediately.

HONDURAS

MASS REPATRIATION OF SALVADORANS REPORTED

PA151823 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] A spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has disclosed that for the first time since thousands of Salvadoran immigrants came to this country a mass repatriation of displaced people toward the neighboring country took place yesterday. A total of 173 Salvadorans were reportedly repatriated at their own request, as they were very interested in returning to their country. This is the first time since the refugees arrived in Honduras, fleeing the 4-year old civil war in El Salvador, that such a development has occurred.

Concerning this, Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Alejandro Gomez, who is in Tegucigalpa for discussions of the mixed Salvadoran-Honduran border commissions, indicated that "my Foreign Ministry has not opened a dialogue with the Honduran authorities for the return of more Salvadoran refugees." He added, however: "We are willing to help."

The deputy foreign minister expressed his deep gratitude to the Honduran Government and people for the welcome given to his countrymen, as well as for the cooperation in this connection by the UNHCR and other international agencies. Finally, Gomez said that all Salvadorans currently in Honduras who may wish to return to their homeland may do so.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, CONTRAS

PA151636 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Mar 84 p 17

[Interview with Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, member of the FSLN Directorate, and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, by Ruben Montedonico, in Managua -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Montedonico] There will be elections in Nicaragua on 4 November, and a new government will be installed on 10 January 1985. The FSLN has said that it will maintain ideological plurality and that the economy will remain mixed. Could you compare this new type of democracy to the classical type?

[Ortega] We define the democracy that we are building in Nicaragua, that we are consolidating in Nicaragua since the victory, as one that allows the people to participate and therefore allows the working people to govern and lead. What does this mean? There has been a radical change from the time when a small percentage of the population, a privileged group, a bourgeois capitalist class, held the economic and political power in the country and denied the people the right to participate. Now it is the people who are giving the capitalists and the bourgeois who stayed in Nicaragua the opportunity to participate.

[Montedonico] To what extent were on the one hand the Contadora Group's efforts which were effective in containing aggressive imperialist actions, and on the other hand the invasion of Grenada decisive in accelerating the Nicaraguan electoral process?

[Ortega] We must reiterate that the elections, the domestic measures, are not the result of U.S. pressure, because this would be contrary to the interests of the Nicaraguan revolution and in line with the aggressive U.S. policy. It would be illogical for us to submit to U.S. pressure because that would be acting in favor of that aggressive, interventionist policy.

Therefore, when we talked about the elections -- we announced the dates in February -- we were simply responding to a wish expressed prior to the victory of the revolution. In 1977, when we launched a strong offensive -- aimed at overthrowing the Somoza dictatorship -- we planned a provisional government and drafted a government plan. The plan gave elections an important place as part of the democratization of Nicaragua after the dictatorship had fallen. In accordance with this stance, we reiterated this position in August 1980, and said that elections would be held in 1985.

By the end of last year, and in line with this wish, we instructed the State Council to work on this issue. In February we instructed them to set the dates for the elections.

[Montedonico] Looking objectively at the situation in Nicaragua, the FSLN has the most popular support. By the same token, however, we note the existence of groups onthe right. What is the potential of this sector; is it only seeking to gain some seats, or does it hope for deeper influence? To what groups of the population does it direct its appeal, and which are receptive?

[Ortega] Which sectors support the right? The same sectors that were used by the Somoza dictatorships. This sector did not disappear with the victory. Some left the country, others are still here. There are other sectors of the population, politically backward and saturated with anticommunism, which the right is trying to influence, to use, and to organize. But we must say that the right, despite the possibility of exerting influence on sectors that are already identified with such positions and others which, due to political and cultural backwardness -- regardless of their class origin -- can be used and organized, is still opposed to the advances of the revolution with regard to the people's spirit and organization. The revolution has been making permanent advances in increasing people's awareness, in consolidating the people's organizations.

[Montedonico] There are those who say that the spearhead of imperialist aggression is in the leadership of the church. Do you agree with this and do you think that these sectors, allied with what remains of the wreckage of the bourgeoisie, are the imperialist spearhead to destabilize the country?

[Ortega] I would say that imperialism finds its fundamental support in the political forces of the right, and there are church officials who belong to this group. When we talk about the right, we are not making a political distinction because it cannot be done. We see that some political sectors and the church are the same; part ofthe right acts according to the instructions of imperialism with the intention of eroding the revolution and facilitating intervention. It is a single front of imperialism aimed at weakening the revolution.

[Montedonico] What measures and norms will the FSLN -- as a vanguard group, a mass party, and a stable, not a circumstantial organization, in the constitutional future -- seek to include in the constitution?

[Ortega] In the first place, we feel that this is a chance to institutionalize the revolutionary change that has taken place in Nicaragua. To the extent that the people ratify their support for the FSLN, the power change that has been wrought will be institutionalized. Institutionalizing means giving shape to the power of the great masses -- the workers, the laborers, and the peasants -- and that must be reflected in the new constitution. It cannot be a constitution like those of the past in which, in certain cases, there were economic prerequisites for having access to the government and the vote, in other words excluding the great masses. This is to be another kind of constitution, a truly democratic, popular, and revolutionary one.

[Montedonico] After 2 years of discussing, preparing, and drafting the constitution, will it be approved by the executive branch or will it be subject to a referendum?

[Ortega] We do not believe in principle that a referendum is necessary, since this constitution will be drafted by recently elected representatives of the people who, therefore, have the necessary support. The people will know beforehand what they are being elected for. In any case, we have not considered the idea of a referendum, but we will view that later and decide in due time.

[Montedonico] Could it have been predicted that the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] would separate from the Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR], which it comprised with the FSLN, and that the current labor minister, Virgilio Godoy, would be nominated for president?

[Ortega] From the very moment that the Sandinist Front decided to participate alone in the elections, the situation within the FPR changed, and it was to be expected that the PLI would adopt that stand.

[Montedonico] Is the FSLN considering only members of its current National Directorate as a presidential candidate, or, to put it more clearly, could someone who is not a commander be a candidate?

[Orgega] We feel that it is advisable to select a member of the National Directorate as a candidate. This would give greater coherence to the functions within the revolutionary state.

[Montedonico] When will the Front announce its candidates?

[Ortega] Around midyear...

[Montedonico] In June, prior to 19 July...?

[Ortega] We think so; their names may already have been announced by then.

[Montedonico] Should the FSLN win the elections, as everything seems to suggest, what measure of authority will the chief of the executive branch maintain within the party structure?

[Ortega] We have party and revolutionary discipline, and we practice collective leadership. I see no reason for altering those principles when a similar mechanism has been implemented during this period through the Government Junta.

[Montedonico] In accordance with the principle of institutionalization, will there be some modifications within the front's structure?

[Ortega] We don't think that should happen. I do not think that the Front's structure needs to be modified by a nationwide election.

[Montedonico] How does the presence of counterrevolutionary forces, who have settled in Costa Rica due to the government's lack of power to stop them, affect Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Frankly, this does not contribute to the achievement of peace and to the efforts being made in Central America in this direction. We do not blame the Costa Rican authorities for these actions. Costa Rica is really being subjected to economic and political pressures. The United States is the element of pressure on Costa Rica: They have decided to occupy Costa Rica to carry out operations against Nicaragua. They have done this against the will of the Costa Rican Government and people. The United States has been pressuring to deploy troops to Costa Rica near the border with Nicaragua. They have openly and disrespectfully pressured the Costa Rican Government, but the latter has not given in. The Costa Rican Government is the victim of the U.S. Government's pressure and policy of intervention and interference. The United States has decided to occupy Costa Rica to install counterrevolutionary groups, which they are using in operations against Nicaragua. Even at this point, when the sectors financed by the CIA in Costa Rica -- newspapers like LA NACION and officials like Deputy Minister Chacon, who are CIA agents acting openly on the side of the counterrevolution, against the will of the Costa Rican Government -- are making a big fuss after the counterrevolutionaries launched an attack from Costa Rica -- an attack in which there were no Costa Rican casualties, no deaths or injuries among the Costa Rican people -- the United States has launched a very grave, major escalation against Nicaragua and has mined a Nicaraguan port. This is truly an act of war, a military blockade.

[Montedonico] How do they carry out these operations?

[Ortega] Through the CIA and the forces they have based in Costa Rica. The individuals who mined the port of El Bluff were deployed from Costa Rica, but of course they had been trained, armed, and directed by the United States. They wounded seven Nicaraguans, sank and damaged Nicaraguan vessels, and caused the disappearance of two Nicaraguans; we do not know if they are dead. We can provide overwhelming proof of the results of that policy of aggression coming to us from Costa Rica without the control, support, or authorization of the Costa Rican Government, but with U.S. guidance. This is the reality, and we consider these reactions in Costa Rica the result of heavy pressures by CIA-financed rightist sectors that form part of the government, such as the man I mentioned.

[Montedonico] Doesn't Reagan's possible reelection pose a great danger for Nicaragua because the United States will cite that reelection as support for its policy and decide to attack? Or if Reagan isn't reelected, isn't there a danger he would leave his successor an already initiated direct aggression?

[Ortega] The dangers exist, and we do not rule out the possibility of a U.S. aggression before the election, though it would not be politically advisable at this time. As long as the administration continues to think about a military solution in the region, and in view of a number of current military factors in the region, there is a possibility of the administration getting involved in a direct intervention at any time in El Salvador, Nicaragua, or both places.

An electoral victory by Reagan would strengthen interventionist and aggressive positions if an intervention has not occurred before the elections.

In the case of Reagan's defeat, your affirmation is also correct. It is possible that such a situation could occur. An irresponsible administration might decide to undertake an adventure and then let the incoming administration deal with the problem.

[Montedonico] Speaking of reelections, how do you view future reelection of officials in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] We have yet to discuss this. That will be a topic to be discussed in the State Council. We do not have an opinion on this. A government must, however, have sufficient time to give coherence to a program. It is absurd for a government to last only 3 or 4 years, because this is too transitory; in the final stages it would act exclusively in terms of political-partisan considerations and would not care about destroying the country or leaving a disastrous situation for the incoming government. Such a situation would occur successively with all the governments. We are trying here to responsibly carry out all functions and fulfill all short- and medium-term projects. This demands some stability. Therefore, we believe that there must be compatibility with the stability demanded by the revolution. There is ample international experience on this topic.

[Montedonico] Mexico follow events in the region and in Nicaragua closely. In view of the situation and the announcements that have been made about elections here, what would you tell Mexican citizens specifically?

[Ortega] We have always found great solidarity with the Mexican people. The Mexican Government has expressed and interpreted that solidarity. We have found among the Mexican leaders permanent sympathy toward the Nicaraguan revolution and cooperation in many fields. I also want to tell the Mexican people that we are waging a real battle for sovereignty in Nicaragua, aware that the battle is not only for Nicaragua but for the interests and independence of all the Latin American peoples. Mexico has been a vanguard on behalf of the self-determination of the Latin American peoples. This electoral effort, therefore, is directed at strengthening the Latin American region, which Mexico has correctly led.

LABOR MINISTER GODOY REPORTEDLY RESIGNS

PA152231 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2138 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 15 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy has resigned, unofficial sources today reported. Godoy, who recently returned from Geneva, where he attended a meeting of the ILO, is president of the Independent Liberal party, PLI, which is critical of Sandinism. It was reported that Virgilio Godoy has presented his resignation to Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, but it is not yet known when he will leave the ministry. Political sources told ACAN-EFE that one of the reasons for Godoy's resignation is his wish to devote himself full time to the upcoming electoral campaign. During his recent trip to Geneva, the PLI leader demanded that the Sandinist government lift the state of national emergency that has been in effect since March 1982.

BAYARDO ARCE GREETS CUBAN TEACHERS CONTINGENT

PA151752 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] On behalf of the FSLN, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, welcomed a contingent of Cuban teachers who arrived in Managua today.

The group of 166 teachers is part of a total of 1,500 teachers who will arrive to help our people in the education sector. The brigade of Cuban teachers, who will be arriving in Managua in the next few days, has been named the Augusto Cesar Sandino Teacher Contingent in honor of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the father of the Sandinist people's revolution.

PARTIES CHARGED WITH PLOTTING AGAINST ELECTIONS

PA160357 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Tonight, we will comment further on Reagan's hasty plot to prevent the elections in our country. The member parties of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board are also taking an active part in this joint maneuver mounted by the CIA, the counterrevolutionaries, and COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise]. The traditional rightist parties -- which consist mostly of politicians who played the Somozist dictatorship's game, who have never fought oppression and exploitation in a clear and decisive way, and who have even fought each other to gain the privileges offered by the Somozist system, supported by the United States -- have gathered today under the COSEP banner to help achieve Reagan's objective: to discredit and disparage the revolutionary process.

Members of these traditional parties find it difficult to understand the Nicaraguan revolutionary process, because in their ideology and working plan they never envisioned the social and economic transformations that are being experienced in the country today, let alone the massive participation of our youth in the homeland's great tasks. To them, political power represented the way to carve up wealth and to offer it to the highest bidder. In the process, they subordinated the country's genuine interests to foreign interests, particularly U.S. interests. Their appeals, therefore, have never received a response from our people, much less from our youth. Quite the opposite, they were accomplices in repression and pain. What role do they play today? The same one that they played in the past: carrying out White House orders. Following COSEP instructions, the traditional parties withdrew from discussions of the electoral law, saying that the elections should be supervised, that freedom of the press does not exist, that the state of siege should be lifted. All of this was done in tandem with the counterrevolutionary attacks. Could there be any doubt about these parties' ties with the Somozists, who murder our people? Could there be doubt that these political parties are responding to the economic interests of the COSEP businessmen? Could there be any doubt that they want to see the Marines sitting at the electoral booths, supervising our elections as they have done in the past? However, our people took a great step toward freedom, starting on 19 July 1979. This step cost blood and pain, and we will not take a single step backward in our social or political, let alone economic, achievements. The Nicaraguan people will always emerge victorious.

OPPOSITION LEADER MENESES CRITICIZES ELECTIONS

PM151132 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 10

[Interview with Nicaraguan Constitutionalist Liberal Party leader Enrique Meneses by Joaquim Ibarz in Managua; date not given]

[Excerpts] Managua -- The Sandinists are striving to impart credibility to the electoral process that will lead to the 4 November elections, but the opposition parties are still skeptical about the promises that in a matter of weeks the state of emergency will be lifted, with the consequent disappearance of press censorship and the authorization of political canvassing.

The opposition says that it is awaiting deeds more than words in order to decide on participation in the electoral contest.

Commander Carlos Nunez, chairman of the joint legislative body, the State Council has again pledged the early abolition of every kind of censorship and the authorization of the radio news programs, which had been suppressed, in the course of a free electoral process with full guarantees of honesty. "The only restriction," Nunez said, "might be strictly military, at specific moments."

The opposition does not recognize the concessions which the Sandinists have made in the discussions on the electoral law, such as the concession that the members of the Supreme Electoral Council should not be appointed by the government or the State Council but by the Supreme Court of Justice, the removal of the controversial article which required 5,000 signatures for a party's registration, approval of military personnel's registration in the ordinary voting register and not in the barracks, and so forth. The opposition is still rejecting the whole process, with a view, according to some observers, of securing greater concessions.

This is not the opinion of Enrique Meneses, the Constitutionalist Liberal Party's representative on the Democratic Coordinating Board, which comprises three opposition parties. Nor does Meneses believe the promises of Carlos Nunez, who over the last few weeks has shown himself to be the most flexible and intelligent politician in the nine Sandinist commanders' leadership. "I do not believe in Nunez' promises," Enrique Meneses asserted, "because if they had lied 10 times, perhaps I would still be able to believe them, but they have lied more than 10 times."

"Unfair Competition"

"Before a month is out we will see whether these promises are lies or truth...

"In commercial terms we talk of the unfair competition which one trader practices against another. The Sandinists are practising unfair political competition with the opposition parties. No one likes this. Deep down, the Sandinists are uneasy. This is not the Island of Cuba or a power like the USSR, but a country with two tremendous borders. The unfair competition is grave, very dangerous."

Question: What arguments will you use if the state of emergency is lifted? Would it not show them up?

Answer: We are prepared to enter an electoral contest with strict loyalty to what the party struggle should be. Fear of the FSLN's parallel organizations threatening us should also disappear.

Question: Will you take part in the elections if this promise to lift the state of emergency is kept?

Answer: Yes, but with an electoral law which respects the people's rights. The electoral law is being discussed at a rapid pace, and its approval within a week appears to be an irreversible step. Assuming that it is irreversible, it would be not a step but a trap for the Nicaraguan people. That trap would be irreversible.

Question: Do you not accept that the Sandinists have made concessions?

Answer: They have taken five steps forward and none backward. They advance and never retreat. They may pause for tactical considerations, but they do not make concessions.

"Another Assault"

Question: Is not the lifting of the state of emergency and the calling of elections a concession?

Answer: If those election were fair, they would represent a right of the people, the same as the lifting of the state of emergency. If they are unfair, it will be another assault, never a concession. The Sandinists never give anything, nor can they give because they have nothing. The people won those freedoms from the time of the liberal revolution.

Question: What would be the point of lying to international public opinion and to the dozens of journalists following the Nicaraguan process closely if it will be found out within a few days' time whether their promises are kept or not?

Answer: Everything is manipulated as regards the outside world in order to convince the world of something that does not exist. We are so certain of this that it gives us great sorrow that this is so.

Question: As regards the chances of the Coordinating Board's taking part in the elections, are they considerable or slight?

Answer: They are very slight, because we do not believe in the Sandinist promises. We might take part if the minimum conditions exist. It is a structural matter, and the structure is defective. They are really shaky defects.

Question: What real strength do the four opposition parties have? What are they apart from a few names?

Answer: With the natural differences among the personalities and the parties, they were all in agreemnt with the program of the Government of National Reconstruction -- the result of the national unity which existed before 19 July 1979. We still represent that unity, and we are the judges as to whether the revolution will or will not be carried out.

Question: If it is true, as the opposition asserts, that the majority of the Nicaraguan people are opposed to the FSLN, why did this change occur following the great popular support which the revolution enjoyed?

Answer: The revolution was carried out by 100 percent of the Nicaraguan people, but not because of Sandinism but because we were all anti-Somoza. The FSLN did not keep its promises; we believed that they could be the repository of popular favor in order to institutionalize the program of the Government of National Reconstruction, which was supported by the entire people of Nicaragua at that time. And the Sandinists broke that sacred pledge. What this people reject is an attempt to set up a Cuban structure.

LIBERALS' GODOY 'OPTIMISTIC' ABOUT ELECTIONS

PM141429 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 10

[Interview with Nicaraguan Independent Liberal Party leader Virgilio Godoy by Joaquin Ibarz in Managua; date not given]

[Excerpt] Managua -- "I am optimistic about the Nicaraguan process because we Liberals are optimistic, almost by definition," Godoy said.

"Despite the strong tensions of the political process, this people are distressed because they cannot see a framework of peace near at hand. [sentence as published] The Nicaraguans want and desire peace, and these elections could be the first step toward this objective for all those who feel distressed."

Question: Do you believe, unlike the parties of the Coordinating Board, that the Sandinists have provided adequate guarantees of free elections?

Answer: Of course we believe it; otherwise we would not be taking part. In politics one must become accustomed not to judge people's intentions but to look at the facts. And it is obvious that the opening-up process is extensive and under way. It seems to me that the state of emergency will soon be lifted and that there will be press freedom. Of course, if at the end of the process we were to see that there are no guarantees, we would withdraw. Other people are demanding that the FSLN abandon power now, which shows a total absence of realism. They also say that the ruling party is using every means available to remain in power, but this also happens in Spain, Britain, and everywhere. We liberals stress that the democratic process cannot and must not be the sole responsibility of the FSLN, but must be the responsibility of all Nicaraguans and all parties.

Question: Do you believe that the opposition parties are playing a legitimate game to secure more concessions?

Answer: That is my impression. We have already secured major concessions, such as moving the election day forward. The Sandinists have accepted major amendments to the electoral law. Many requests have been made, but you cannot achieve everything. We are also demanding that the elections be only legislative, not constituent. This can still be achieved; in politics everything is possible; but if we do not achieve it, we will still take part. What we must do is to ensure that the opening up is not crystallized but extended. If the state of emergency is lifted and there is freedom of expression, I see no weighty, valid reasons for not taking part in the elections.

Question: What do you believe that the U.S. attitude toward the election proces to be?

Answer: The Reagan administration is encouraging an abstentionist stance in an attempt to delegitimize the elections.

Question: Do you believe that the Sandinists will gain a majority?

Answer: It is unlikely. What is more likely is that they will gain a plurality. They have everything in their favor, all the advantages.

Question: Would you agree to join a coalition government with the FSLN following the elections?

Answer: Membership of the Patriotic Revolutionary Front does not imply joining a government alliance -- it would not be a coalition -- but once each party's relative weight has been determined, we could negotiate a government pact. The Patriotic Revolutionary Front was a strictly political alliance -- I would even describe it as idealistic.

Question: Was membership of the Patriotic Front positive for the Independent Liberal Party?

Answer: Perhaps it was positive inasmuch as it was not negative, but actually the activity of that front produced few results. The essential aim was to found national unity on the basis of the principles of a mixed economy, political pluralism, and nonaligment. Something was done with regard to plurialism, less on real nonaligment, and virtually nothing with regard to consolidating a mixed economy. We did not succeed in realizing our proposal to establish a statute of ownership defining the extent of rights and obligations -- how far the state and private sectors should extend, and the extend of the cooperative system and the mixed economy.

Question: Some of the junta's new commanders seem rather disinclined to surrender power in the event of losing the elections. Are there conflicts within the Sandinist leadership?

Answer: Differences of opinion occur in all political parties, including ours, and this interplay of opinions can be useful, and must not be considered a sin. The important think is to analyze not an individual opinion but the sum of all opinions, or the official opinion. And the reiterated official position is to respect the election result.

FDN'S CALERO ON ELECTIONS, RELATIONS WITH ARDE

PM141138 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 4 Mar 84 p 14

[Interview with Nicaraguan Democratic Force National Directorate Chairman Adolfo Calero Portocarrero by Joaquim Ibarz in Tegucigalpa -- no date given]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- "The elections in Nicaragua will be a farce. In our opinion, the elections are not proceeding in freedom, and we reject this masquerade. The Sandinist elections will be like a school without teachers. Therefore we will not halt our struggle. These elections will not bring peace to Nicaragua because we who have taken up arms will continue to fight the Sadinists," Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, chairman of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) national Directorate and commander-in-chief of Nicaragua's main counterrevolutionary group, has commented in this capital.

Question: Your rejection of the elections clashes with the stance of the democratic governments of Europe and Latin America, as well as the Socialist International, which will support the Nicaraguan electoral process.

Answer: All countries have a duty to support electoral processes and to ensure that they are democratic and free. But their supporting them and demanding appropriate conditions is one thing, and these conditions of freedom actually existing is another.

Question: The Socialist International leaders seem to be convinced that the minimum guarantees for the elections to be fair will exist.

Answer: To cite only your country's leaders, I can assure you that Elena Flores -- the PSOE's Latin America chief -- and Felipe Gonzalez -- chairman of the committee of solidarity with the Sandinists in Spanish -- are the least suitable people to express opinions on situations in which they are partisan.

Distrust of PSOE

Question: Felipe Gonzalez is following the Socialist International's line of pressing Managua to induce the Sandinists to implement their inititial democratic program.

Answer: The socialists are indeed demanding that the FSLN's democratic promises be kept, but they are expressing no opinion on whether that path toward freedom exists, nor are they applying sanctions. That is the problem.

Question: But the socialists and many democratic governments now believe that those conditions will exist and have already given the electoral process their blessing. Does this stance place the FDN in a position of countering the general trend?

Answer: No, because in the region most concerned -- Central America -- these elections have no credibility. And opinion in the region should be respected above that in countries such as Sweden or Spain itself.

Question: In the region there are also countries with very defective electoral processes, such as Guatemala and Panama, to which the United States gives its blessing and support.

Answer: Yes, that is true, but in democratic nations such as Costa Rica people have no faith in the Sandinist elections.

Question: What you say does not tally with the support given to the Sandinist elections by the influential leader of the ruling party, Jose Figueres.

Answer: Figueres is an old man. And I would say that Costa Rica's problems largely stem from him. He has trifled with Costa Rica. A little investigation into Figueres' financial dealings would reveal a great deal.

Question: What would the FDN's stance be if the Democratic Coordinating Board agrees to take part in the elections because it believes that there are guarantees of fairness and freedom?

Answer: When the Coordinating Board declares that there are conditions of freedom and a real democratic process, we will see what decision we will make.

Decisive Year

Question: How will the military struggle develop over the next few weeks?

Answer: The year 1984 will be decisive. The scales will tip one way or the other. This year the process will advance in such a way as to indicate Nicaragua's future course.

Question: Will you accept the moratorium which the Socialist International has sought from Reagan?

Answer: They should seek that moratorium from us, not Reagan. To halt the attacks we will demand the rapid implementation of a democratic program. They say that they will gradually grant freedom. We will likewise gradually cease firing. The Socialist International can do its utmost to keep the Sandinists in power, because they sympathize with them.

Question: Felipe Gonzalez has stated that in free elections the Sandinists would win.

Answer: From Felipe Gonzalez we can expect only expressions of support for the Sandinists, who would fall from power on the same day that they granted freedom.

Gonzalez is qualified to say who will win in Spain, but he is not qualified to express an opinion on Nicaragua, because he is partisan.

Question: Felipe Gonzalez has always pressed for a democratic system in Nicaragua.

Answer: This is a discrepancy into which the socialists fall. They say that they support the democratic process, but they persist in closing their eyes to reality. It is obvious that a democratic process is not being carried out. Just by reading the list of what the Coordinating Board demands, you can see a total lack of respect for what Western democracy means.

Question: How would the possibility of former junta member Arturo Cruz heading an opposition list of candidates be viewed?

Answer: Arturo Cruz is a very good person, a man of many qualities. The Sandinists' interest in Cruz' taking part, however, is intended to give the election a semblance of legality. As a former junta member, Cruz would legitimatize the candidacy of Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez, because even in Somoza's days we saw to it that leaders could not run for immediate reelection.

Question: Opposition members belonging to the Democratic Coordinating Board have just told us in Managua that those who have taken up arms are not promoting a process of opening up, that you are not helping them in their opposition policy.

Answer: Who told you that? The fact is that they cannot tell journalists anything else. The Coordinating Board leaders have always demanded that we be taken into account in any dialogue, in any process. In his address on 13 December, Msgr Obando y Bravo said that violence is allowed when you are struggling against authoritarianism. The church's teaching has preached this for centuries.

Question: As regards rejection of elections and the need for armed struggle, many of your arguments are similar to those expressed by Guillermo Ungo, chairman of the Salvadoran guerrillas' FDR-FMLN.

Answer: El Salvador's process cannot be compared with Nicaragua's . In El Salvador it is not the Army which is manipulating the elections. The 1982 elections were won not by the Army but by the opposition. It was Napoleon Duarte who manipulated and lost them. People voted despite the guerrillas' threats. It is unfair to compare the two processes.

Few Resources

Question: You say that you are struggling to restore democracy, but, like the Salvadoran guerrillas, many of your attacks are directed against economic targets -- cooperatives, tractors, trucks.

Answer: This is untrue. We have been too quixotic in the struggle; we have been gentlemanly in selecting targets. We have attacked stragegic targets, such as Puerto Corinto, and military targets. The attacks on some cooperatives, as in Pantasma, are aimed at destroying the Sandinist setup.

Question: The Salvadoran guerrillas, however, without having sanctuaries in neighboring countries and with less assistance from abroad, have struck spectacular blows and held the Army at bay. Are not the FDN's actions very much confined to sparsely populated mountainous areas?

Answer: The Salvadoran guerrillas have had many years of preparation. We are improvising our forces. And to say that the United States is supporting our struggle does not mean that we receive more than the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Question: Do you mean that you need still more weapons from the Untied States?

Answer: We could double our strength at a stroke if we had more weapons.

Question: The leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], Pastora's group, say the same thing, and also aver that Washington is restricting their weapons to force them to unite with the FDN.

Answer: ARDE has more than enough resources. It has enough equipment to do its job. I do not like to issue verdicts on any of Pastora's reasons for acting as he has been.

Question: Do you mean that Pastora is not using his resources, or that he is misusing them?

Answer: I do not know, but it seems to me that he has enough equipment to work efficiently.

Question: In the past few days attention has returned to negotiations between the FDN and ARDE concerning a merger. Will it be feasible in the short term?

Answer: We have always been open to any kind of understanding with ARDE. There is in fact unity because we are combating the same enemy. But the details need to be worked out for a more direct and more fluid cooperation. A delegation of ours, headed by members of the steering committee, is now visiting Costa Rica to negotiate with ARDE. Our only condition is the prevalence of civilian over military authority. We do not know whether Commander Pastora will like that very much.

Question: Is that the major obstacle?

Answer: The main obstacle to unity is Commander Pastora, who has gone as far as to contradict Robelo's statements. Here is an interesting detail: All members of ARDE were minority allies of the Sandinists. It is difficult for them to be minority allies again. Unitl they grow, or their strength is equivalent to ours, I believe that it will be difficult to develop closer relations.

Question: So are the differences due to the distribution of power rather than to ideological reasons?

Answer: We are not interested in the distribution of power. We have our own power and they have theirs. An understanding would involve keeping our own identities, but forming an alliance with someone larger involves certain risks.

Question: What changes has the FDN leadership undergone?

Answer: The FDN's civilian and military leadership consists of three civilians -- Edgar Chamorro, Indalecio Rodriguez, and me, chairman of the National Steering Committee -- and one military member, the only former colonel in Somoza's National Guard still with us, Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

Question: It has been claimed that in December the FDA was purged of Somozaist officials to gain credibility.

Answer: Yes, there was a reorganization. We did it really to project the FDN's true image. We dissolved the general staff and created a civilian and military leadership. Colonel Bermudez has strictly military responsibilities, and is the movement's prime military authority, but he is subordinate to the civilian members. Some members of the general staff were given different jobs. They did not like it and left.

Question: Isn't a "change of job" a euphemism to avoid having to say "purge"?

Answer: We deprived them of their command and gave them different jobs. They were inefficient in their work. They believed that we were expelling them. Now the National Guard's representation within the FDN is minimal: Of 450 detachment commanders only 30 are former National Guard members. The FDN is commanded by new people.

Question: What influence could the Contadora Group have in prompting the FDN to cease the struggle?

Answer: We support the Contadora Group and we all say the same. But Contadora must arrive at a clear conclusion, such as the stance that the OAS reached on Somoza. Otherwise, it will either disband or vegetate as a debating society.

REBELS REPORT RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY

ARDE Claims 38 Killed

PA151900 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 192 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, on 14 March]

[Text] 1. On 9 March, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column of the Felix Pedro Martinez Unit, under the command of an expert rifleman, Companero Gordo, ambushed an EPS [Sandinist People's Army] patrol in (Bocatepera), (Canto Verde) Municipality. The EPS suffered 15 dead.

2. Also on 9 March, at 1500 hours, the [words indistinct] column of the [words indistinct] unit, under the command of Companero Canario, the (Cano Filico) region, Punta Gorda municipality, underwent its first test of fire with an attack on a patrol of the interventionist, which suffered two dead and three wounded.

3. On 10 March, at 1030, the Mario Sanchez Column, composed of members of the Barba 1 and Barba 3 Units, under the command of Companeros (Pajaro Alga) and (Dennis) respectively, carried out an L-shaped type ambush against the interventionist army. As a result, the enemy suffered 15 dead and an undetermined number of wounded, whom they took with them as they fled.

4. On 12 March, at 0530, the Mario Sanchez Column of the (Verderob) Unit harassed the enemy military command in Los Chiles, Azucena Municipality. The enemy suffered six dead and several wounded.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

FDN Attacks EPS Battalion

PA160047 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 43

[Text] More than 200 casualties have been inflicted on the Sandinist Army in recent days in several clashes with the guerrillas, according to reports issued in Tegucigalpa by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN. The FDN issued a communique saying that antigovernment actions have increased in three departments in central and northern Nicaragua. It added that two EPS [Sandinist People's Army] battalions "have been wiped out" in the mountains of Matagalpa. "One of the battalions was composed mainly of Cuban nationals."

According to the war report, members of the Jorge Salazar Regional Commando fought government forces near El Cacao and El Pino, 50 and 80 km from Matagalpa, inflicting over 100 casualties both dead and wounded. Also, the Monimbo Task Force engaged in fierce clashes with Sandinist troops near La Quesera, 19 km northeast of Ocotal, the capital of Nueva Segovia Department.

The FDN also reported clashes in San Francisco, Telpaneca jurisdiction, Nueva Segovia Department, "and the Sandinists fled their positions in disarray." According to the FDN, the rebel forces also inflicted more than 60 casualties on the official troops when they clashed in La Polvosa and Vilan, Jinotega Department. Meanwhile, it asserted, a military truck carrying troops was ambushed on the highway to Winolo, and its 40 passengers were killed.

Finally, the FDN reported that 114 EPS battalion members deserted "and have fled to the mountains of Matagalpa and Zelaya to join the rebel commandoes." According to FDN, the information was provided by 14 former EPS members who have already joined the Andres Castro Task Force. The rebels also reported that the Sandinist high command has ordered "the persecution and deaths of all deserters."

CABRISAS TALKS WITH ARGENTINE COMMERCE SECRETARY

FL151550 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban foreign trade minister, and Ricardo Campero, Argentine secretary of commerce, have met as heads of their respective delegations for the third working meeting on foreign trade in Havana. Minister Cabrisas stressed the importance of this meeting, which should serve as the basis for consolidating trade and economic relations as well as consolidating service arrangements between the two countries.

Campero stressed the importance the Argentine Government places on relations with Latin America, particularly with Cuba, where trade and economic exchanges can best be described as historic, and which the Argentine Government will develop further.

HERRERA SIGNS TV AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FL151708 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Cuba and Czechoslovakia have signed a cooperation agreement and a work plan for television in Prague. Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, and Jan Zelenka, director general of Czechoslovak Television, signed the documents.

The 5-year cooperation agreement and the 2-year plan include an exchange of television material, documentaries, and coproduction of programs. Technicians and specialists from the two organizations will also exchange experiences and participate in television festivals organized by the two institutions.

Herrera is visiting Prague to attend a working meeting of the organizations of radio and television of socialist countries.

ICAP COMMEMORATES GRENDIAN COUP ANNIVERSARY

FL151658 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] At an event held in Havana to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Grenadian revolution, Rene Rodriguez, member of the Central Committee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples [ICAP], has stated that the example, honesty, and revolutionary humility of Maurice Bishop will never be erased by Yankee imperialism.

The ICAP president recalled that our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said that the United States, wanting to destroy a symbol, killed a cadaver [as heard] but at the same time revived the symbol.

The internal incidents that culminated with Bishop's assassination were mentioned by Rodriguez, who added that the United States, supported by several Caribbean satellite countries, used these incidents as a pretext to appoint itself sole owner of Grenada.

ECONOMIC GROWTH NOTED AT CEMA INSTITUTE MEETING

FL151558 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] At a CEMA specialists' meeting held at Havana's Palace of Conventions, Cuba has reported a notable increase in gross production over the last few years, in spite of hostile U.S. policies.

At the meeting Gilberto Diaz, vice president of the JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board], stressed that in spite of the negative effects caused by the capitalist countries' recession, Cuban economic growth increased 5 percent in 1983. This year it is expected to increase between 4 and 4.5 percent, due mainly to an increase in efficiency. At the 12th meeting of the International Social Economic Problems Institute, in which the Cuban delegation participated, Diaz added that in the 1981-83 period productivity decreased by 2 percent, but this year it has increased to 4 percent.

JUCEPLAN Vice President Diaz also discussed Cuba's savings in energy consumption and raw materials, and noted the increase in industrial sector investments, especially in the sugar industry, textiles, machinery, and [word indistinct] processing areas.

TEACHERS GROUP ARRIVES FOR SERVICE IN NICARAGUA

FL151714 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The first group of the Augusto Cesar Sandino's fifth contingent of Cuban teachers arrived in Managua yesterday to train Nicaraguan children and youths. Acting Education Minister Francisco Guzman, Deputy Education Minister Ernesto Vallecillo, a delegation of local teachers, and Cuban Embassy officials received the 166 teachers, who are part of the 1,500 scheduled to arrive in Nicaragua before 27 March.

This contingent will be divided into 34 brigades that will be dispatched to various Nicaraguan departments to teach the 70,000 students in rural areas.

Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission, later talked with the teachers and explained to them the current situation the country is experiencing. He told the teachers that the warmest welcome they receive will be from the peasants in the rural areas where the various brigades will serve.

AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR LAUDS DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS

FL150144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz has expressed in Vienna his satisfaction over the development of Austrian-Cuban relations and the third joint intergovernmental meeting to be held soon in Havana. Chancellor Sinowatz made the statement during a meeting with Cuban Ambassador to Austria Gustavo Mazorra at which the Austrian host emphasized Fidel Castro's political prominence which, he said, evokes sentiments of sincere affection from the Austrian people.

Chancellor Sinowatz reiterated that Austria wants a political solution in Central America and actively supports the efforts of the Contadora Group. He recalled his condemnation of the U.S. invasion of Grenada and of all interference of this type.

REPORTAGE ON U.S. PRESENCE, POLICY IN C.A.

Senate Committee Approves Aid

FL151615 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] A U.S. Senate committee has voted in favor of emergency military aid packages of $93 million for the Salvadoran regime and $21 million for continued support of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

The two aid packages were approved by the Budget Committee through several amendments to a law on African humanitarian aid after an intense debate in which President Ronald Reagan personally participated. Nevertheless, the funding still has a long way to go before disbursement authorization is approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee.

Meanwhile, during the days preceding the Salvadoran presidential elections on 25 March, El Salvador finds itself at a dead end on political, economic, and social affairs. Political observers have asked themselves how the next president will be able to extricate the country from this situation.

Political observers also recognize that in war strategy the guerrilla forces have taken the upper hand in the last months by gaining economic and social control over important sectors of the country.

Another report states that Salvadoran teachers have begun a strike demanding better wages and the freeing of all political prisoners, among other demands. Approximately 21,000 teachers are demanding an increase of nearly 50 percent in their wages, the lifting of the state of emergency measures, and the reopening of the national university which was closed by the Army 4 years ago.

U.S. Prepares for Intervention

FL151650 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Central America indicate that Washington is continuing to prepare to deal an interventionist blow to the region. As it increases its interference in the Salvadoran war, it is strengthening its military positions in Honduras and further encouraging the counterrevolutionaries who are attacking Nicaragua.

It has been reported that Admiral James Watkins will visit Honduras. The chief of Naval Operations of the United States will tour military installations in that country. The holding of surprise military exercises in Honduran regions near the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan borders has been announced.

A committee of the Yankee Senate approved the granting of $21 million more for the anti-Sandinists and $93 million in military assistance for El Salvador, thus complying with a request made by President Ronald Reagan. In addition, the White House has decided to challenge a GATT ruling rejecting the U.S. boycott of Nicaraguan sugar imports.

In summary, Washington is trying to lead the Central American crisis to a dead end in the political, economic, and military spheres, forgetting the dangers that can stem from an increase in tensions in that area.

Media Cited on U.S. Presence

PA150348 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] An unconfirmed number of U.S. soldiers were sent last Saturday to the seat of the 8th Infantry Battalion in Cucuyagua, in Honduras' Copan Department, on the Honduran-Salvadoran border, Tegucigalpa's newspaper EL TIEMPO has reported. The article includes photographs of U.S. soldiers and war vehicles in Cucuyagua.

Several international press agencies have reported that the United States will conduct a military operation called "Emergency Alert" in that area, to coincide with the Salvadoran elections scheduled for 25 March.

The latest edition of the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK says the military maneuvers that the United States will soon conduct in Honduras are intended to exert pressure on the Salvadoran guerrillas. The exercise will take place at the same time that the United States is doubling the number of its permanent military troops in Honduras to 1,700 men, and will coincide with the arrival in the area of the aircraft carrier America and its support warships, as well as with the beginning of routine aerial espionage missions over El Salvador that depart from the Palmerola military base in Honduras.

U.S. Actions Rejected

FL151956 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] U.S. actions to heighten tensions in Central America have been rejected on an international scale by broad political sectors and the press.

The Reagan administration's measures in the region are part of the hegemonic U.S. plan to destroy the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua and the revolutionary situation prevailing in El Salvador. International public opinion against this action has grown and it condemns Washington's militaristic escalation.

At the same time, demonstrations of solidarity with the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan peoples are gaining strength. The Nonaligned Movement will hold a labor ministers' meeting in Managua where unemployment problems and the development of human resources will be discussed. Holding this meeting in Nicaragua reflects the nonaligned countries' desire to reaffirm their support for the revolutionary process taking place in that country.

Such demonstrations of support further guarantee the willingness of the Nicaraguan people to defend their revolution at whatever price necessary. Informed of the situation, the masses are reaffirming their ideological principles and confirming their support for the positions of the Sandinist leadership, which on more than one occasion has presented formulas for a peaceful solution to the problems of the area which have been ignored by the United States.

SALVADORAN LEADER CITED ON ELECTIONS, REFORMS

FL150244 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Alvaro Magana, chief of the Salvadoran Government, today rejected in San Salvador the possibility of a negotiated agreement with the FMLN.

In an interview published by EL DIARIO DE HOY, Managa referred to the social, agricultural, banking, and commercial reforms promised by the Christian Democratic Party, noting that an evaluation of the results is complex. Alvaro Magana stated that the government to be elected on 25 March will be able to make appropriate decisions as to the supposed virtues and defects of said reforms.

The wealthy banker implicitly recognized the scant results of his nearly 12 months in power and asserted that at no time had he built up great hopes.

An atmosphere of skepticism reigns in the Central American Republic of El Salvador slightly more than 1 week before the elections, in which only center and right-wing parties will participate.

Foreign press correspondents report that even that sector of the population not fully identified with the revolutionary movement considers that it is not represented by the politicians who will participate in the elections. The attitude of this sector, whose participation in the elections is required and will be verified by the presentation of national identify cards, is one of the mysteries of the electoral process.

SALVADORAN ELECTIONS DAMPENED BY VOTE PROBLEMS

PA150400 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] El Salvador's Central Electoral Council [CCE] has admitted that it will be impossible to hold elections in more than 20 Salvadoran villages, thus curtailing the total number of voters that will go to the polls. However, offical Salvadoran sources have said that 90 percent of the estimated 2 million voters will cast their ballots.

CEE members have also acknowledged the existence of more than 130,000 forged or duplicate identify cards, adding that the invalidation of those documents would not mean that the situation is under control.

SURPRISE OPERATION ANNOUNCED IN EL SALVADOR

FL151810 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The pro-U.S. regime of El Salvador has announced the beginning of a surprise, large-scale operation against the FMLN rebels. Approximately 3,500 of the main repressive forces were sent to Morazan Deaprtment, while U.S. airborne troops and Honduran battalions gathered on the border.

Radio Venceremos has reported that these incidents prove that there is a plan among the Yankee, Salvadoran, and Honduran armies for joint actions against the FMLN. It also said that the rebel detachments are ready to repel this new imperialist attack.

Radio Venceremos also carried a military bulletin saying that the Salvadoran patriots were the first to attack regular troops which closed in on rebel positions in San Miguel Department. It added that the FMLN fighters inflicted 30 casualites on the soldiers of the regime during the first armed clashes.

FDR Vice President Eduardo Calles, a prominent opposition figure, told NOTISAL that the Reagan administration is to blame for the situation in El Salvador. He stressed that the United States increased its military presence in El Salvador, a path that leads to the direct intervention of Yankee troops in El Salvador.

More on Offensive

FL152010 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1916 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] More than 3,000 Salvadoran regime troops have been mobilized toward the eastern part of the country in an attempt to destroy the guerrilla positions in that area. Two days ago the Army begin a strong offensive against the insurgents in the Departments of San Miguel, La Union, and Morazan, on the border with Honduras. Meanwhile, Yankee and Honduran troops remain stationed near those towns.

Participating in the antiguerrilla offensive are troops from the Third Infantry Brigade and four elite battalions which were trained and commanded by U.S. advisers. The first battles took place yesterday on the hills of Miracapa and San Marcos in San Miguel, where the FMLN guerrillas inflicted 10 casualties on the troops.

SALVADORAN GENERAL CITED ON DEATH SQUADS

FL152000 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] One of the founders of the paramilitary groups in El Salvador has revealed to the media that the creation of those bands in Central America was encouraged by the U.S. State Department.

General Jose Alberto Medrano, chief of the Salvadoran National Guard, was the founder of the first death squad in that country together with the Nationalist Democratic Organization and the security agency. The two organizations, Medrano noted, emerged in the 1960's after a series of meetings held in Costa Rica by area presidents and John Kennedy, the then Yankee president. Medrano stressed that the U.S. State Department proposed the creation of such terrorist groups to the Salvadoran military to prevent leftist infiltration.

UN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONDEMNS GUATEMALAN REGIME

FL151815 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The UN Human Rights Commission has issued a resolution condemning the Guatemalan military regime and expressing the concern of the international community over the violation of human rights in that country.

The resolution, approved by 28 yes votes, 3 no votes, and [figure indistinct] abstentions, expressed alarm over the continuation of political violence in certain areas, particularly in Guatemala City. The document urges other governments no to supply weapons or other kinds of assistance as long as serious human rights violations are reported from Guatemala.

The resolution condemning the military regime was sponsored by Canada, Spain, France, (?and the Netherlands). It was opposed by the United States, Uruguay, and the Phillipines.

NICARAGUAN UN AMBASSADOR CITED ON ATTACKS

FL151800 Havana Doemstic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Javier Chamorro, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, has charged before that organization that Honduras and Costa Rica are springboards for launching the counterrevolutionary bands which, sponsored by the United States, are attacking Nicaragua.

Following a meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Chamorro said that his country has not decided if it will ask for a UN Security Council meeting and that he will meet with the nonaligned group again.

Meanwhile, the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers has urged the United States to stop its intervention in Central America and has expressed support for the recent Nicaraguan proposal on the area.

Commander Daniel Ortega proposed the immediate withdrawal of troops and war materiel from Central America and demanded an end to the aggression against his country.

NICARAGUAN CITIES PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE INVASION

FL150050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] In the main cities, Sandinist Defense Committee leaders are readying the trenches that were dug in November 1983, convinced that once again there is a serious threat of invasion by the United States. On Tuesday, in a speech broadcast by radio and television, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, placed the Nicaraguan people on alert to defeat any aggression. The Sandinist Defense Committees also received orders to tighten security to keep counterrevolutionaries from operating domestically. Nevertheless, no tension has been observed in the average Nicaraguan, who is prepared to fight for the Sandinist revolution and is sure of victory.

STATE OF SIEGE DECREED IN COLOMBIAN PROVINCES

FL151725 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Last night the government of Belisario Betancur stated that public order had been disrupted and decreed a state of siege in Caqueta, Huila, Cauca, and Meta Provinces. This emergency measure was established after the M-19 guerrilla movement's takeover of the town of Florencia, capital of Caqueta Province on Wednesday. During the guerrilla raid 30 persons were killed, 20 were wounded, and 125 prisoners from the local jail were freed.

Besides the state of siege imposed on Florencia, a curfew was also ordered. A state of siege was in effect throughout Colombia until July 1982 when it was lifted by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, 2 weeks before President Belisario Betancur was inaugurated on 7 August 1982.

60 PERUVIAN POLICE ARRESTED IN MURDER CASE

PA150433 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Sixty members of Peru's Investigative Police have been arrested following a judge's order accusing them of being involved in the killing of worker Francisco Muslo last October. The judge conducting the investigations has charged only one policeman with the crime, but ordered that 59 other policemen who refused to come to the victim's aid also be arrested.

Francisco Muslo was killed inside a police station where he had been held under arrest after an alleged group of Shining Path members attacked the station.

BURNHAM SAYS GUYANA WILL NOT BOW TO IMF PRESSURE

FL151825 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Guyanese President Forbes Burnham has said in Georgetown that Guyana will never change the progressive path it has chosen in exchange for crumbs from the tables of those who think they own the country. The Guyanese president was thus referring to the strict [word indistinct] imposed by credit organizations, particularly the IMF, to grant loans to Guyana. He indicated that some capitalist governments have exerted pressure on Guyana to sign agreements with the IMF and have made this a condition for giving Guyana financial assistance. He added that his country is facing a serious economic deterioration, but noted that its situation has nothing to do with (?the socialist nations) because, after all, the pro-U.S. Jamaican Government also has serious difficulties in obtaining financial assistance.

VISAS DENIED TO CUBAN PCD CONGRESS DELEGATION

FL151750 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Summary from poor reception] The Dominican Government has announced through a communique that it will deny the visa requests made by a Cuban delegation which asked to enter the country in order to particpate in the Third Congress of the Dominican Communist Party [PCD].

"President Jorge Blanco threatened that he would try to prevent the delegations, which were invited to attend the conference, from entering the country if the PCD did not stop campaigning against the installation of a military base in the Dominican Republic. The PCD said that the Cuban delegation decided to remain in Panama until Saturday to see if the Dominican Government would authorize its entrance into the country. Hatuey DeCamps has asked that a visa be given to Anibal Mancebo, a Cuban, so that he can participate in the Third Congress, which will take place on Friday morning."

IMBERT URGES CLOSER TRADE TIES WITH JAMAICA

FL142321 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[By Saul Pimentel]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Jose Augusto Vega Imbert yesterday said he believes there should be closer relations between Jamaica and the Dominican Republic which "would contribute to removing the barriers still existing on the path toward a more united Caribbean." The official was speaking at the opening ceremony of a plenary meeting between representatives of the governments of the two countries, during which agreements on trade, tourism, energy, and technical and cultural cooperation were discussed.

He said many world organizations such as UNCTAD, FAO, and WHO, as well as others at the Latin American and Caribbean level, have been urging developing countries to strengthen their ties still more. In his judgment, the calls for closer ties within the South-South framework are becoming "an increasing necessity".

"Jamaica and the Dominican Republic are members of numerous economic and political organizations. Therefore, it is necessary to have closer ties which will contribute to removing the barriers still existing on the path toward a more united Caribbean."

POLICE SET TO PREVENT FURTHER STUDENT VIOLENCE

FL151625 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, police were stationed at some Santo Domingo high schools to prevent another outbreak of student rioting. Thousands of students from the state-run Autonomous University of Santo Domingo clashed with police, throwing rocks, blocking roads, and burning tires during a protest march. More than 100 students were arrested and several police and students were injured.

The students were protesting government funding cuts to both private and state universities and economic restrictions resulting from government's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund.

BARBADOS

STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO BEGIN 1 APRIL

FL152027 Bridgetown CANA in English 1819 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 15, (CANA) -- The Barbados Government says it will use a soft loan from the British telecommunications giant, Cable and Wireless, to pay for its 25 per cent shareholding with the imminent localisation of the company's branch here.

Information Minister Nigel Barrow told the Senate a new company, Barbados External Telecommunications Service (B.E.T.), will come into operation from April 1, under a 10-year license granted by government.

Cable and Wireless will retain a 60 per cent equity shareholding in this company, while 10 per cent will be offered to the public.

Senator Barrow said that at some future date the remaining five per cent of the 50 million one dollar shares will be made available locally. The new company will have an issued share capital of 36 million dollars (1 Bdos dollar; 50 cents U.S.).

According to a memorandum of understanding signed between government and Cable and Wireless last November 18, it was agreed that over a five-year period, the British company would provide the local operations with management services.

In consideration of these services, the B.E.T. will pay Cable and Wireless a percentage of its annual revenue at the rate of five per cent for the first year, four per cent for the second year, and three per cent for the third, fourth and fifth years, and will have the right at the end of the fourth year to terminate the agreement by giving one year's notice.

On the question of the distribution of profits, Senator Barrow said it was agreed that regard should be paid to such requirements as may be necessary to maintain and develop the company bearing in mind the investment and industrial climate in Barbados. Government also reserved the right to nominate the chairman of the new company (after consultation with Cable and Wireless) and two other directors to the seven-member board.

The first appointee as chairman is permanent secretary in the Ministry of Information, Chesterfield Thompson.

Cable and Wireless will appoint three directors on its own and one independent Barbadian director after consultation with the government. This latter slot has been filled by retiring Cable and Wireless manager, Paul Carrington.

Government now has a direct interest in the whole spectrum of telecommunications on the island, having already taken a minority shareholding in the Barbados Telephone Company, which is responsible for the provision of internal services.

BARTERING CONSIDERED TO EASE PAYMENT PROBLEM

FL142142 Bridgetown CANA in English 1937 GMT 14 Mar 84

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 14 (CANA) -- Barbados is looking at instituting barter arrangements with its Caribbean Community (Caricom) neighbours to ease payment problems dogging regional trade, the island's trade minister, Bernard St John, said today. He made the comment while addressing the third annual exporters conference, organized by the state-run Barbados Export Promotion Corporation.

St John, speaking against the background of a slowdown in intra-regional trade, appeared not to hold out much hope for another massive increase in exports from Barbados or a sharp rise in export-triggered employment this year.

He told exporters: "...thought is being given to the concept of barter as a mechanism for solving some of the payment problems that are in existence." He did not say which countries were being considered, but Jamaica owes Barbados 6 million dollars (U.S.) for imports and Guyana more than 50 million dollars (U.S.).

A two-man team from the Jamaica Manufacturing Association (JMA) and the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) raised the issue of a possible bartering arrangement between Barbados and Jamaica when it visited Bridgetown late last month.

St John's comment today was his first public one on counter trade since the visit.

Jamaica has been shipping bauxite to the United States in return for motor vehicles. It has also exchanged sugar industry equipment for Guyanese rice.

Last year and again this year regional exporters complained of difficulties in getting their goods into Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. Nevertheless, last year Barbados' overall domestic exports were valued at 581.6 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.), up from 383.7 million dollars in 1982, according to official statistics.

St John said: "I look forward very much to hearing this year Barbados' exports would reach some 600 million dollars at least and also that some of the problems in Caricom are, if not fully solved, dealt with in a manner which would allow a continuation of our exports, at least at the level that we achieved in 1983."

On employment, the trade minister said: "Many people seem to misunderstand the fact that it is possible to have a great increase in exports in a country and at the same time not achieve a great increase in employment in the manufacturing sector.

"This arises because of the fact that more and more firms and manufacturers in Barbados are using sophisticated processes of manufacture which are capital-intensive, but not necessarily labour-intensive." He added: Since we need the foreign exchange, we have to reconcile our need for foreign exchange, our need for being competitive, with our need for employment.

"The government is well aware of the fact that there is going to be further structural change in the manufacturing process in Barbados.

"What we can do as a government is to devise mechanisms to ensure that those who, through no fault of their own, fall by the wayside in employment -- because of structural chances, because of loss of markets, because of lack of competition -- are re-trained, are adequately compensated for the years of service and, temporarily while they adjust to the new conditions, are provided with unemployment pay," St John said.

EPC DIRECTOR WILLIAMS ON 1983 EXPORTS, IMPORTS

FL150141 Bridgetown CANA in English 2244 GMT 14 Mar 84

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 14 (CANA) -- Barbodos today reported a 197.9 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) increase in exports for last year over 1982.

Addressing the third annual exporters conference of the state-run Export Promotion Corporation (EPC), Executive Director Phillip Williams said that for the second consecutive year, domestic exports rose substantially in 1983. In fact he said the percentage increase of 51.6 per cent was slightly more than twice the 1982 rise. In value terms, domestic exports increased from 383.7 million dollars in 1982 to 581.6 million dollars last year.

The EPC official said that food and live animals exports declined by 35.9 per cent reflecting the fall in sugar exports from 60.2 million dollars in 1982 to 38.7 million dollars last year.

Crude material (inedible), except fuels, increased by 101.6 per cent, Williams said indicating a rise of 103.6 per cent in exports of limestone to Trinidad and Tobago as well as very substantial increases in copper scrap sales.

Williams told the exporters that a review of Barbados' export trends to Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago over the last five years, indicated clearly that "the pattern of very substantial, sustained percentage increases" in exports to Port-of-Spain over the previous four years was broken in 1983.

Barbados sold Trinidad 79.4 million dollars in goods last year compared with 79.6 million dollars in 1982 -- a decline of 0.3 per cent. Sales to Port-of-Spain in 1974 amounted to 8.9 million dollars. Said Williams: "The challenge facing us now is to find a new market which will provide an opportunity for a similar sort of sales growth over the next decade. Perhaps the U.S. with the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) or Europe with the successor agreement to Lome Two offers us this challenge and opportunity," the EPC official said.

Caricom Trade Rule Infractions

FL152018 Bridgetown CANA in English 1743 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 15 (CANA) -- The state-run Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (BEPC) says it is in favour of tracking down and punishing businessess which deliberately break the Caribbean Community's (Caricom) trade rules.

The BEPC's stand was outlined by its executive director, Phillip Williams, who said the breaches including changing the country of origin tag on imported goods then re-selling them could fragment Caricom.

Goods made in the 13 Caricom member countries are traded in the region on a duty-free basis. Some manufacturers have complained of Caricom states importing goods from third countries and re-exporting them with labels changed so as to qualify for the duty-free treatment.

Addressing the BEPC'S third Annual Exporters Conference here yesterday, Williams said: "...Any regional exporters who may be guilty of relabelling the necessary excuse for holding up legitimate shipments." [sentence as received]

He added: "In short, they are contributing to the fragmentation of Caricom and a regional policing mechanism must be put in place to seek out and punish the perpetrators of these activities."

Williams told the exporters and bankers that during the last two years the Caricom free trade area had suffered some serious set-backs. "The BEPC's plans for the next 12 months are therefore geared at assisting exporters to speed up the development of new export markets for their products," Williams said.

He said that the corporation recognised that in order to achieve any penetration of overseas markets "we must have on-the-spot professional representation." "We therefore propose during the next year to establish some form of representation in the United States, the Bahamas, Martinique and Jamaica," he added. "In the case of the United States this representation will eventually be full-time. In the case of the other territories it will be by hiring the services of a part-time consultant. Williams also said that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) would fund a research project for the sale of Barbados rum in the United Kingdom. He said that two projects would be pursued, funded by the European Fund (EDF) and the Organisation of American States (OECS) to help Barbados garment manufacturers secure access to the U.K. and U.S. markets.

The EPC official also said that the island's export grant and incentive scheme has been liberalised so as to remove the 60 per cent local ownership criteria for companies applying for assistance. "Instead, the exporting enterprise must satisfy the corporation that it has management and marketing control in Barbados," Williams said. The emphasis of the scheme would not be on providing assistance for the development of extra-regional Markets. According to Williams, the corporation would no longer fund exporters to Caricom unless they are new exporters. Williams said that the assistance would be based on the recommendations of a marketing advisory service "and there must be an indication that the assistance sought is part of a clearly thought out export marketing plan, rather than a sudden brain wave."

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN GRANTED -- Bridgetown, Barbados, March 9 (CANA) -- The Barbados Government has entered into an agreement with the World Bank for a 10 million U.S. dollar loan to upgrade its roads, prime Minister Tom Adams said today. He told reporters that the overall cost of the project will be 20 million dollars (U.S.) of which Barbados would be putting up the other 10 million dollars (U.S.) [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 9 Mar 84 FL]

DOMINICA

CHARLES: 'NO REGRETS' OVER GRENADA DECISION

FL151645 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Charles of Dominica, who played a major role in last October's intervention of Grenada, said she had no regrets about the military intervention and would do it all over again the same way. Prime Minister Charles, who arrived in Puerto Rico to sign a trade cooperation agreement with the Puerto Rico Government, said she would advocate another military strike against Grenada if it were necessary.

GRENADA

OAS ALLOWS INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO SPEND $100,000

FL151639 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Organization of American States agreed today to allow Grenada's interim government to spend $100,000 in unused funds from last year. Speaking at OAS Headquarters, Grenada's representative, Denis Noel, thanked the body for its support and said the OAS was the first international organization to give Grenada aid after last October's political unrest.

LOUISON COMMENTS ON BISHOP, CUBA, USSR

FL142115 Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 14 (CANA) -- Grenada could have a second revolution on its hands if social, economic and political conditions here deteriorate badly, according to former agricultural Minister George Louison, whose leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) staged a coup in 1979.

Speaking yesterday, when the NJM marked the fifth anniversary of its coup, Louison said "massive repression" of the type that existed in Prime Minister Eric Gairy's day and unsatisfactory "material conditions" could force people to recognise "they need to free themselves."

The NJM ousted Gairy's right wing government after accusing it of repressing political opponents, corruption and economic mismanagement.

The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) which the NJM set up to replace Gairy's was unseated by the Army after internal feuding between moderates such as ex-Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and hardline communists led by Bishop's former deputy, Bernard Coard. The military junta was toppled in an October 25, 1983 U.S.-led, Caribbean-supported invasion of Grenada. "If there is a repeat of the kind of repression Gairy would have been engaged in," Louison said, "if there is massive repression in this country, once the material conditions are repeated there is every chance of people recognising that they need to free themselves."

Louison said the future with respect to revolutionary struggles in Grenada could be known only when the "concrete conditions" were there. The ex-minister is one of the key figures in the "Maurice Bishop 19th October Martyrs Foundation," an organisation launched by the NJM last January 21 to perpetuate the memory of Bishop and those massacred by the Army on October 19.

Louison said the foundation wanted to have relations with Cuba but had not been able to contact Havana. "Fidel Castro did a very honourable and noble memorial for Maurice Bishop," he said. "Cuba was one of the few countries in the world that declared an official period of mourning for Maurice Bishop." Before Bishop died, Louison said, the Cuban party and government had made it absolutely clear they would not support the "Bernard Coard clique." He said he thought Cuba would support the foundation.

Louison said those behind the foundation would like to discuss the matter with Cuba. His problem, he said, is not having a travel document. He said his passport was taken "either by the revolutionary military council (junta) or the invaders" and, even though he had applied to the Immigration Department for a new passport since last November, it has not been issued. [passage indistinct]

Louison said he will apply, "at some point," for a document to visit Havana, but he does not know what the reaction of the authorities will be to this.

The foundation is, at the present time, not in touch with the Soviet Union, Louison said, but he and his colleagues "have nothing against the socialist countries," and the foundation would like to have relations with similar organisations in various parts of the world. "We cannot expect government relations, even in Cuba," Louison said, "because of the fact that the foundation is not a government or a political party, and the foundation will not become a party."

If a political party emerges from the remnants of the NJM, the ex-minister said, it would be completely separate from the foundation and would not necessarily comprise the people in the foundation because the foundation is open to "anyone who would like, in any way, to identify with the life and work of Maurice Bishop."

Should a political party emerge, Louison said, he could not say what its ideology would be or whether it would seek relations with Cuba. He thought those decisions would depend on "what the party is all about." "I can tell you," he said, "that if I were part of a party that were to be in power in this country in the future, I would build relations with countries far and wide."

Louison said he would be very interested in having relations with Cuba, with the socialist countries and with the Non-Aligned Countries, and that he would want to see a foreign policy which is broad in scope and enlightened in its approach to international politics.

JAMAICA

ISRAEL ENTERS JOINT AGRICULTURAL VENTURE

FL142048 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 14 (CANA) -- Jamaica has entered a 30 million dollar (U.S.) joint venture with a group of Israelis to cultivate vegetables for export to the United States and Western Europe, according to an official statement here. It said the firm, Jamaica Agro-Products, plans to ship eight million pounds of vegetables to the United States this year, and had secured a contract to supply 22 million pounds annually to a Western European buyer.

The U.S. sponsored Caribbean Basin Initiative, which grants 12 years duty free access to the American market for most Caribbean products, is expected to considerably increase the export potential of the Jamaica-Israel firm, the statement said.

Jamaica Agro-Products at present has 700 acres under vegetable cultivation and according to managing director Eli Isona, expansion is contemplated.

There is also expansion into horticulture, bananas and other fruit, while 2,000 acres are in fish farms, expected to yield 25 million pounds of fish this year.

Irrigation technology and plant breeding systems being utilised by the company were developed in Israel. They are well suited to Jamaica and are proving successful, Isona said.

SEAGA BLAMES DEFICIT ON REVENUE SHORTFALL

FL152156 Bridgetown CANA in English 2107 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 15, CANA -- Jamaica is showing a deficit of about J1.08 billion dollars (one Jca dollar; 30 cents U.S.) or 15.6 [percent] of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on its 1983/84 budget which closes at month end. Parliament has just approved the first supplementary estimates to the budget, which was originally targetted at J3.2 billion dollars.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Edward Seaga told Parliament that when the budget was originally cast, the deficit was expected at just under J788 million dollars. But he said it had soared because of a shortfall in the tax projections and increased current account spending, which was partly fuelled by the November devaluation of the local dollar.

The recurrent budget increased from the original J2.124 billion dollars to J2.394 billion dollars while the anticipated revenue take had fallen by J139 million dollars to J1.850 billion dollars. The overall deficit position, economists here say, would have been worse had the government not slashed J137 million dollars from the capital budget, which was initially put at 1.1 billion dollars.

There was also deliberate and significant under-spending on the capital side which meant that a number of development projects were starved of funds.

Prime Minister Seaga said that the budgetary deficit was being financed with J648 million dollars in external loans, and 436 million dollars from internal sources. The government is under serious pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to severely reduce its budgetary deficit as part of the programme for a U.S. 180 million dollar stand-by credit facility, which is now being negotiated.

Seaga in a speech last month indicated that the aim would probably be to bring down the deficit to 5 per cent of GDP within three years.

He has not yet outlined the strategies for reducing government spending, and it is the shape of the budget that is the subject of current discussion in Washington between Jamaica and the IMF.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INCE COMMENTS ON 2-DAY VISIT TO VENEZUELA

FL141950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1719 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 14 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago External Affairs Minister Dr Basil Ince returned home last night at the end of a two-day official visit to Venezuela.

The Ministry of Information, in a statement today, said Ince was received in "special audience" by newly-installed Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

He also met Foreign Minister Dr Isidor Morales Paul for talks that analysed "fundamental aspects of the bilateral relations of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela," the Information Ministry said.

Ince's trip to Caracas was at the invitation of Morales Paul. The two foreign ministers also examined international issues, with particular reference to developments in the Caribbean and Central America.

Re-negotiation of a Trinidad and Tobago/Venezuela fisheries agreement, the delimination of the marine boundaries between the countries, and bilateral co-operation in energy and commercial relations including air services, were among issues discussed.

According to the Information Ministry, both governments agreed on the need for the "early conclusion" of the new fisheries agreement, and to "continue and strengthen" their co-operation in relation to energy matters.

While in Venezuela, the Trinidad and Tobago foreign minister also held talks with the Venezuelan president of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Dr Ruben Castillo, the acting minister of energy and mines, Dr Hernan Anzola, and the president of the Institute for Foreign Trade, Dr Cesar Salazar Cuervo.